

NIGHTMARE



75¢
47778

NO. 19
JUNE
1974

T.M.

IS
DRACULA
DEAD OR ALIVE
IN
1974?
THE GHASTLY
TRUTH IS IN
CASTLE
OF THE
VAMPIRE
DEAD

A SKYWALD
HORROR-MOOD
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...FIRST IN A **SERIES** OF **SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED FEATURES** PRESENTING **HORROR FRAGMENTS** OF FAMOUS SCIENCE FICTION, DETECTIVE, ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE CLASSICS...

...**HORROR FRAGMENTS...**

THE HELL HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES

... THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF **HORROR** IN **EVERY STORY EVER WRITTEN**, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED... AND THE FAMED DETECTIVE - ADVENTURE TALES OF **SHERLOCK HOLMES** ARE NO **EXCEPTION...**



...THE MAN **SHERLOCK HOLMES** HIMSELF WAS A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE... SHROUDED IN HIS FAMOUS CLOAK. HE TRACKED THE MOST DESPICABLE CRIMINALS IMAGINABLE IN ALL QUARTERS OF HIS 19TH CENTURY **ENGLAND...**



... IN ONE OF HIS MOST FAMOUS TALES: '**THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES**', HE IS CALLED TO INVESTIGATE **MYSTERIOUS MURDERS** IN A **SWAMP-AREA** NEAR **FAMOUS DARTMOR PRISON...**

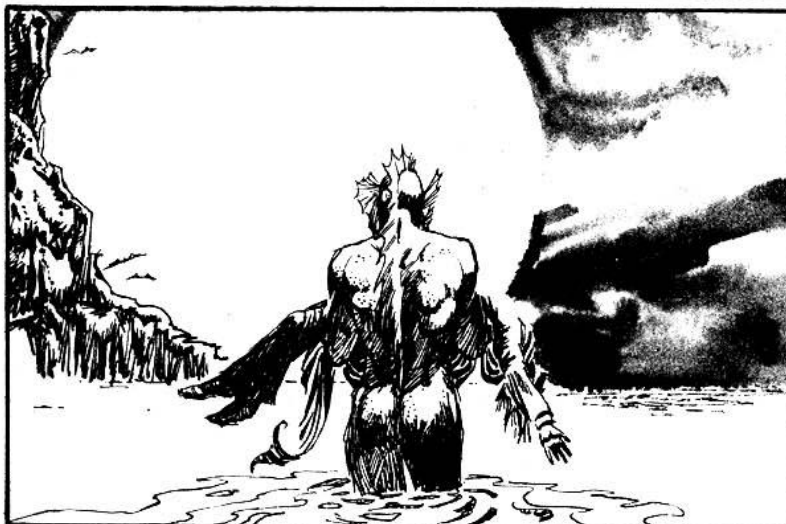


... AND **THERE FACES** THE **MOST MONSTROUS ANIMAL-BEAST** OF HIS CAREER...

... THE BEAST ATTACKS AND MAULS HIS COMPANIONS... AND IT IS ONLY THROUGH HOLMES' QUICK ACTION THAT THE **HELL HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES** DOES NOT **RIP** THE GROUP TO **SHREDS** WITH HIS VICIOUS **TEETH** AND **CLAWS...**

... **THE HELL HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES** WAS IN FACT A **STARVED MONSTER DOG** WHO KILLED HIS **MASTER'S ENEMIES** BECAUSE HE WAS **RAVENOUS** AND **MAD...** IF THE **VICTIM** DID NOT DIE FROM THE **ATTACK ITSELF** HE DIED FROM **INFECTIOUS RABIES** SHORTLY THEREAFTER... **SHERLOCK HOLMES ENDED** THE **DOG'S** **LIFE** WITH A **SHOT** THRU THE **BEAST'S HEART...**

FERRAN SORTES-



A SKYWALD HORROR-MOOD MAGAZINE

NIGHTMARE

— EDITED BY ALAN HEWETSON —

NUMBER 19

JUNE 1974

COVER ARTIST: BOADA

CONTRIBUTORS: CARDONA CINTRON

JESUS DURAN ALPHONSO FONT

EDGAR ALLAN POE FERRAN SOSTRES

RICARDO VILLAMONTE

...in this issue...

The Autobiography of a Vampire

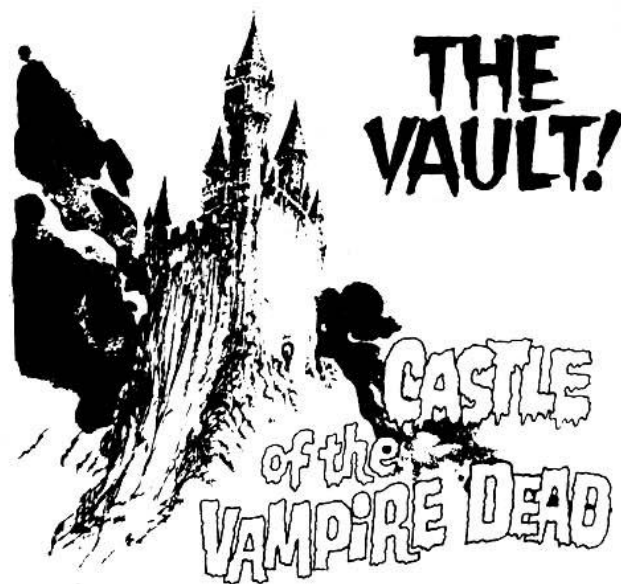
CHAPTER 3

MY TOMB IS MY CASTLE

**WILLIAM
WILSON**

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S MASTERPIECE OF HORROR

THE HUMAN GARGOYLES TALES OUT OF HELL!

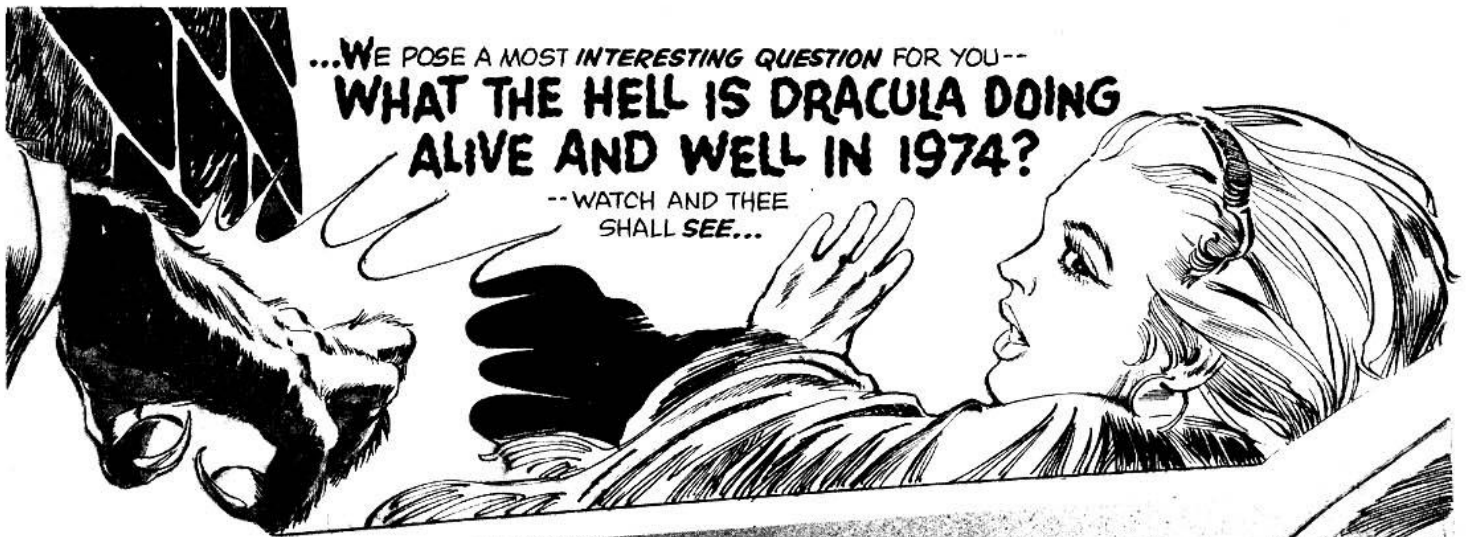


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...WE POSE A MOST INTERESTING QUESTION FOR YOU--

WHAT THE HELL IS DRACULA DOING ALIVE AND WELL IN 1974?

--WATCH AND THEE
SHALL SEE...



W. NEW YORK
THE NEW YORK
METROPOLITAN
LAST LIBERAL FIGHT
FOR THE WEIRD, WARRLED
AND DISENCHANTED
OF THESE AMERICAS...

...HOLD--
COME WITH ME--
QUIETLY!

I'LL SPLIT YOUR
HEAD OPEN,
CREEP...GET
OUTTA MY
WAY!!

IN OTHER WORDS...LAST
REFUGE FOR THAT BORED
AND DISENFRANCHISED
MINORITY GROUP WHO CALL
THEMSELVES "INDIVIDUALS"...

...YOU HAVE A KNIFE...
GO AHEAD AND
USE IT...

YOU MUST BE NUTS,
MISTER--BUT I
AIN'T ARGUIN'
--I'LL SLICE
YOU IN HALF!!





M-MY G-GOD--
NO B-BLOOD!
WHAT ARE YOU
MISTER?
YOU AIN'T
ALIVE!!



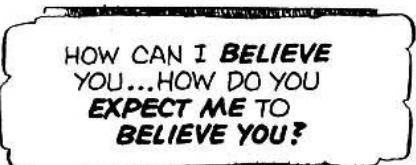
I--AM
DRACULA!
LORD OF THE UNDEAD--
MASTER OF ALL
VAMPIRES!



...AND FOR THE SMALL
SUM OF \$10,000,
MY FRIEND, I
SHALL MAKE **YOU** AS
INVULNERABLE AS
I AM--



...FOR \$10,000--I SHALL **GIVE**
YOU **ETERNAL LIFE**--PAYE YOUR
WAY TO **FORTUNE AND HAPPINESS**--
--A **STRANGER HAPPINESS**
THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT
POSSIBLE...FOR \$10,000
--I SHALL MAKE **YOU** A
VAMPIRE, MY FRIEND--
END YOUR **BOREDOM** WITH
LIFE--GIVE YOU
PLEASURE YOU NEVER
KNEW **EXISTED**...**THINK** OF IT,
MY **FRIEND**... \$10,000 AND
I WILL MAKE **YOU** INTO A
VAMPIRE
GOD!



HOW CAN I **BELIEVE**
YOU...HOW DO YOU
EXPECT ME TO
BELIEVE YOU?



WHEN YOU HAVE
THE **MONEY**--COME
TO THE **PLACE** ON
THE **CARD**...



OH, LORD!!



...THE CARD WAS SUCCINCT, IT SAID ONLY: **COUNT DRACULA**
THE ISLE DE FRANCE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

...AND JUST AS THERE IS ONLY ONE **COUNT DRACULA** THERE IS ONLY ONE **ISLE DE FRANCE** ON THE **MEDITERRANEAN SEA**, UPON WHICH AN **ANCIENT MANSION** RISES INTO THE **BLACK SKIES OF HELL** ON HIGH...AN ISLE THAT IS MERELY A HUGE **CRAG** RISING OUT OF THE SEAS...THIS IS **DRACULA'S REFUGE** IN 1974, FOR HIS HOME **TRANSYLVANIA** IS NOW **COMMUNIST RUMANIA**, HIS NAME IS EVEN MORE **FAMOUS NOW** THAT IN HIS OWN DAY, AND TO LIVE IN **EVASION OF LAW AND AUTHORITY** REQUIRES SUCH **ANONYMITY OF RESIDENCE** AS THIS **ROCK IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...**

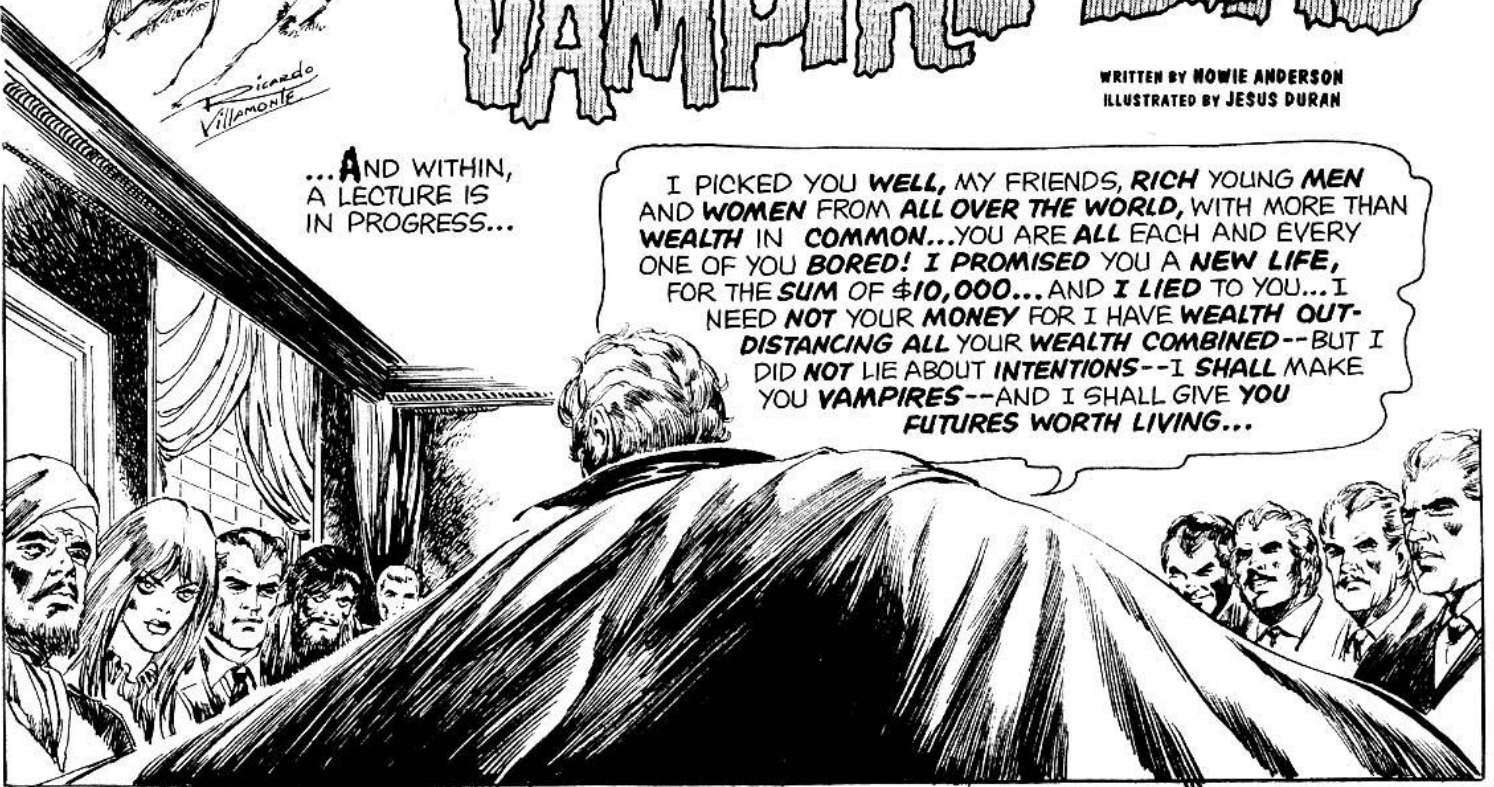
...THIS PLACE THAT IS THE...

CASTLE of the VAMPIRE DEAD

WRITTEN BY **HOWIE ANDERSON**
ILLUSTRATED BY **JESUS DURAN**

...AND WITHIN,
A LECTURE IS
IN PROGRESS...

I PICKED YOU **WELL**, MY FRIENDS, **RICH YOUNG MEN** AND **WOMEN** FROM **ALL OVER THE WORLD**, WITH MORE THAN **WEALTH** IN **COMMON**...YOU ARE **ALL** EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU **BORED!** I PROMISED YOU A **NEW LIFE**, FOR THE **SUM OF \$10,000...** AND I **LIED** TO YOU...I **NEED NOT** YOUR **MONEY** FOR I HAVE **WEALTH OUT-DISTANCING ALL YOUR WEALTH COMBINED--**BUT I **DID NOT** LIE ABOUT **INTENTIONS--**I **SHALL** MAKE YOU **VAMPIRES--**AND I **SHALL** GIVE YOU **FUTURES WORTH LIVING...**





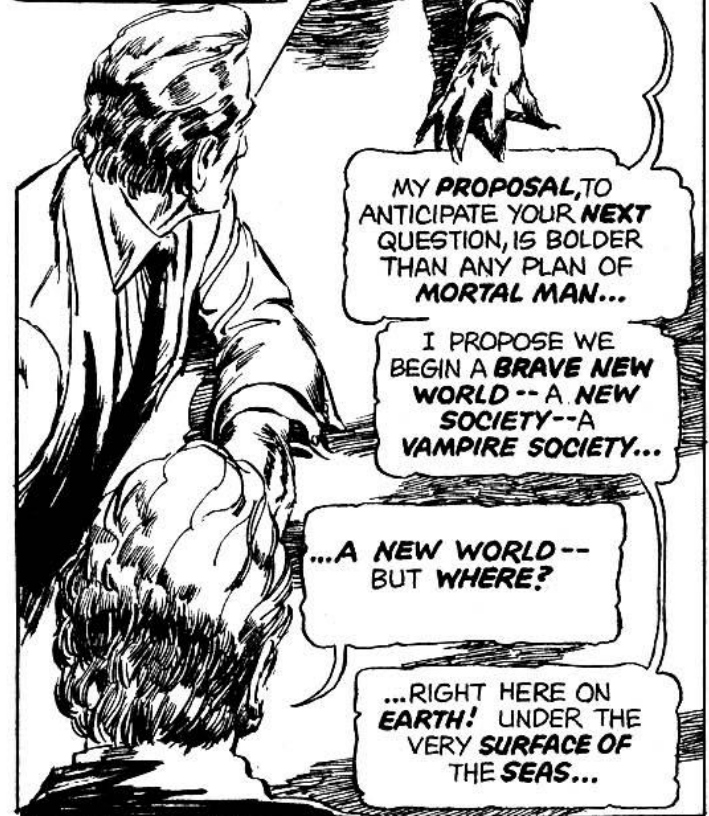
AT LEAST **NOTHING** WORTH **GETTING...**
...WOULD YOU HAVE
BELIEVED ME IF I'D
OFFERED YOU MY "GIFT"
WITHOUT
CHARGE?

WHY DID YOU **MAKE-UP** THAT
BIT ABOUT THE **MONEY...**
WHAT WAS THE POINT?

PEOPLE OF
WEALTH, SUCH AS ALL
OF YOU, BELIEVE
NOTHING IS FREE...

...I'LL WAGER
THERE IS A
FEE OF SOME
KIND...

NO--THERE IS NONE! I HAVE
SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO
DO-- BUT IT IS **ENTIRELY**
VOLUNTARY, AND SHOULD YOU
REJECT MY PLAN I WILL **FULFILL MY**
PROMISE TO MAKE YOU INTO **VAMPIRES**
NONE-THE-LESS... AND YOU CAN GO ABOUT
YOUR **PRIVATE**
WAYS...



MY **PROPOSAL**, TO
ANTICIPATE YOUR **NEXT**
QUESTION, IS **BOLDER**
THAN ANY PLAN OF
MORTAL MAN...

I PROPOSE WE
BEGIN A **BRAVE NEW**
WORLD -- A NEW
SOCIETY--A
VAMPIRE SOCIETY...

...A **NEW WORLD--**
BUT WHERE?

...RIGHT HERE ON
EARTH! UNDER THE
VERY **SURFACE OF**
THE **SEAS...**

...IN MY **WORLD**
THAT IS...IN THE **PERIOD**
OF **TIME** INTO WHICH I
WAS **BORN AND BRED**,
A MAN, WHETHER
BORN TO **NOBILITY**
OR **PEASANTRY**,
COULD **GRAB POWER**
AND **HOLD**
POWER, LIMITED
MERELY BY HIS **PERSONAL**
ABILITY... IN THIS **WORLD**,
1974...PERSONAL
ABILITY HAS **LITTLE**
TO DO WITH **POWER...**
IN THIS **WORLD** IT IS
THE **ORGANIZED GROUP**
THAT **SURVIVES--THE**
STRONGER THE ORGANI-
ZATION--THE MORE POWER
THEY **WIELD--THE MORE**
PEOPLE THEY
CONTROL THE
BIGGER THEIR
FORTUNES--THE MORE
ENDURING THEIR
STRENGTH... AS I AM
BUT AN **INDIVIDUAL**, I
NEED TO BE **WITHIN AN**
ORGANIZED GROUP
TO **SURVIVE...** AND
SO I HAVE CALLED
YOU TO BE MY
GROUP...

...YOUR **PHILOSOPHY**
DOES NOT **CLASH**
WITH WHAT WE **KNOW**
OF YOUR CHARACTER,
DRACULA-- BUT YOUR
CONCEPTIONS OF BEING
PART OF A **GROUP**
ARE **HARD TO**
BELIEVE COMING
FROM YOU...



...WELL GIRL--IT MAY
BE **HARD TO BELIEVE**
...BUT I AM **CONVINCED**
THE **INDIVIDUAL** HAS
NO POWER IN THESE
MODERN TIMES--AND
SO IF I AM TO **SURVIVE**,
THEN I HAVE **LITTLE**
ALTERNATIVE...
I MUST **REFORM**
MY **WANTS** INTO
MY **NEEDS...**
COME--MY PROJECT
IS ALREADY **BEGUN**
--I'LL TAKE YOU
ALL ON A **TOUR...**



HOW DO WE KNOW
HE'S REALLY DRACULA,
AND NOT SOME
IMPOSTER--SOME NUT
WHO JUST THINKS
HE'S DRACULA?

...WE DON'T...
...BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE
WHETHER THIS MAN IS DRACULA OR THE
CONDUCTOR OF THE MORMON TABERNACLE
CHOIR--SO LONG AS HE OFFERS US
EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE?

...WE'RE DESCENDING
IN A **DIVING BELL!**

...YES--FOR THE **PRESENT--**
BUT YOU MUST **REALIZE**
THAT WHEN YOU BECOME
VAMPIRES AND WE BEGIN
OUR **SOCIETY** YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO **BREATHE FREELY**
UNDERWATER-- FEELING
NO DISCOMFORT-- FOR A
VAMPIRE NEEDS NOT AIR
TO BREATHE...MERELY
BLOOD IN HIS VEINS...

...**MODERN SOCIETY** HAS ITS **DRAWBACKS**
IN SOME WAYS--BUT IN OTHERS IT IS ALMOST A
MAGICAL SOCIETY-- FOR **SCIENCE** AND **TECHNOLOGY**
HAS BROUGHT US TO THE BRINK OF A **DIFFERENT TYPE OF WORLD,**
ONE LIKE **THIS--** A **WORLD UNDER THE SEA--** ALREADY POPULATED BY
A **HUNDRED PEOPLE** SUCH AS **YOU--** **POWERFUL VAMPIRES--** DURING THE
LAST 5 YEARS WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER TO **BUILD THIS WORLD--** I'VE
CALLED **TRANSYLVANIA II--** I HOPE YOU WILL ALL **JOIN US--** AND **TRAVEL** ABOUT THE
WORLD RECRUITING **OTHERS** WHO WOULD BE **INTERESTED** IN BEGINNING THIS **NEW WORLD--**
WE NEED A **SOCIETY** OF **THOUSANDS** BEFORE WE CAN ESTABLISH OURSELVES AS A **LEGITIMATE**
NATION-- ABLE TO **APPROACH MANKIND** ON ITS **ESTABLISHED POLITICAL TERMS** AND THEREBY
HAVE A **VOICE** IN THE **WORLD...A VOICE** WHICH THE **WORLD SHALL FEAR--** FOR THE **END RESULT**
OF ALL THIS IS **CONQUEST--** TODAY, **TRANSYLVANIA II--** TOMORROW--**THE WORLD!**





**LORD SATAN
IN HELL!!**



**FIEND -- WHAT ARE
YOU? CAN YOU SPEAK
AND EXPLAIN THIS
MADNESS?**

**--ARE YOU SENT BY
GOD OR SATAN?**



...YOU KILL A HUNDRED
PEOPLE--YOU THREATEN
MY NEW WORLD--YET YOU
ARE SO INSIGNIFICANT
AN ENTITY YOU CANNOT
EVEN SPEAK...

...WELL, MONSTER,
BREATHE YOUR
**LAST FOUL
BREATH--**

...FOR--TONIGHT
YOU **DIE!!**

...**DRACULA'S QUESTIONS** WILL
NEVER BE ANSWERED BY **THIS**
MONSTER--NOT NOW--NOT EVER--AND
YOUR QUESTIONS, DEAR READER, CAN BE
ANSWERED ONLY BY A **FLASHBACK**
TO EVENTS DRACULA IS NOT IN
POSITION TO WITNESS...

...A FLASHBACK 5 LONG YEARS
TO THE **BEGINNING OF**
DRACULA'S BRAVE NEW
WORLD AS HE LED HIS
FIRST EXPEDITION BE-
NEATH THE WAVES...

...UNDER THE WATCHING,
WAITING EYES OF A CER-
TAIN GROTESQUERY...
WHOSE ORIGIN IS NOT
KNOWN TO ANYONE,
EVEN TO ITSELF--THO' ITS
APPEARANCE SMACKS
OF RADIATION MUTANCY--
PERHAPS THE RESULT OF
ONE OF MANKIND'S MANY
H-BOMB TESTS UNDER
THE WATERS OF THE
WORLD...

...SOMEWHAT **FISH** YET SOMEWHAT
HUMAN--SOMEWHAT **RATIONAL** YET
SOMEWHAT **INSTINCTUAL**--IT
WAITED, AND IT WATCHED, WHILE
A LUNATIC GROUP OF
VAMPIRES BUILD: A CITY
IN ITS PRIVATE DOMAIN...

...IT CARED **LITTLE** WHAT THEY
WERE **DOING**--IT NOTICED ONLY
THAT THEY WERE A **GROUP**--
WHEREAS, IT WAS **UNIQUE**--IT HAD
NO FELLOWS--IT HAD **NO MATE** AS
DID EVERYONE IN THE **GROUP**...



...**BATTLE AFTER BATTLE**
THIS **INDIVIDUAL** WINS AGAINST
THE **GROUP** IT SO **INNOCENTLY**
DESIRED TO **JOIN**--TO WELCOME
A **PART** OF--

...**BUT NONE** OF THEM WOULD
ACCEPT IT...SO THEY WERE
DESTROYED...

...IT CAME INTO THE CITY
AT **LAST**--TO BECOME PART
OF THE **GROUP**--TO TAKE A
MATE AND **COMPANION**...

...AND IT FOUND ONLY **FEAR**
AND **HATE** FROM **EVERYONE**--
FEAR THAT DISALLOWED
MATING--AND **HATE** THAT
MANIFESTED IN A **BATTLE**...

...WITH THE **STRONGEST** **WARRIOR**
BEING THE **VICTOR**...



...EVEN AS **DRACULA** IS **DESTROYED**
WHEN THE **CREATURE** **WRENCHES** **BACK**
DRACULA'S **HEAD** SO **VIOLENTLY** THE
JUGULAR **VEIN** IS **SEVERED**--THAT **VEIN**
IN THE **NECK** THAT **ENABLES** THE **CIRCULATION**
OF **BLOOD** INTO THE **HEAD**...

...**BLOOD** IS **DRACULA'S** **AIR**--IT
IS HIS **LIFE**...



...NOW, THERE IS **NO LIFE** IN **DRACULA'S**
HEAD, THOUGH **BLOOD** STILL **CHURNS** THROUGH HIS **BODY**--
KEEPING IT **WARM** AND KEEPING HIS **HEART** **BEATING**...

...THE **CREATURE** **FEELS** THE **WARMTH** OF HIS **BODY**--
SHE **FEELS** THE **THROB** OF **LIFE** IN HIS **HEART**--SHE IS
COMFORTED, AND TAKES HIM **BACK** **BENEATH** THE **WAVES**
TO **HOME** **GROUND**--

...SHE HAS FOUND A **MATE**--SHE IS NOW PART OF A
GROUP OF **TWO**--AND THE **LORD** OF THE **UNDEAD** IS THE
OTHER **BLOODY** **HALF**...

HORROR PREVIEW CONTEST

... can you fill in the missing VOICE BALLOONS? The best 5 entries we receive will WIN an advance copy of the next issue ... get your entry in FAST and you can become a WINNER ...



MAIL TO:
**SKYWALD
CONTEST #5**
RM 1501
18 EAST 41ST. ST.,
NEW YORK CITY,
N.Y. 10017



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

...THE ARCHAIC HORROR MAILBAG...

"... I've been reading your horrific magazines for about a year now, and I'm compelled to comment on a couple of recent issues of PSYCHO — the tale THE PREMATURE BURIAL OF A MUMMY in PSYCHO #16 was a very new and different kind of tale. Congratulations to De La Rosa for a job horribly well done! Rubio also did a terrifyingly weird portrayal with THE THING IN THE BOX! PSYCHO #17 was a masterpiece — starting off with the shocking grotesqueness of Faba's exciting yet sickening cover! Have Faba do more covers, especially ones with as much dramatic color as this one had ...

... THE DEATH PIT, BLOW YOUR MIND WITH DEATH ROK on the inside front cover was interestingly good, but you didn't tell us who did the artwork. Whoever it is, have that person do more artwork for you! I've always enjoyed Ricardo Villamonte, and THE BLACK SCULPTURE OF THE PHAROHS was no exception! Both new artists introduced in this issue did exceptionally fine jobs! Cardona and Collado deserve return assignments for their astonishing and incredible artwork on THIS IS YOUR LIFE, SAM HAMMER, THIS IS YOUR DEATH and THE NARRATIVE OF SKUT, respectively! Where will these two new artists be appearing next? This issue also had a story by Maro Nava, who is always BLOODY good! THIS IS THE VAULT OF THE LIVING DEAD was purely sickening! Maro Nava's different technique is always enjoyable! Then, more artwork by De La Rosa, Borrell (especially good), and another Ricardo Villamonte illustrated story! You horrifying fiends are being too good to your readers! I also enjoy Cintron, Zesar, and Suso — be sure to have more of them in the future! Cintron always does an excellent job on THE HUMAN GARGOYLES — and Cesar did an excellent job on THIS GROTESQUE GREEN EARTH in NIGHTMARE #15 and WHERE ARE THE INHABITANTS OF EARTH? (my all time favorite SKYWALD HORROR-MOOD story) in NIGHTMARE #17! ...

... your best cover of 1973 was PSYCHO #14, drawn by Ken Kelly! It won't be easy coming out with another cover

that had as much impact as your CLASSIC CREEPS cover! To sum this all up: more CESAR - more CINTRON - more BORRELL - more FUJITAKE ... and remember the words to Helen Reddy's song: 'DON'T YOU MESS WITH A MONSTER' (or something like that! I don't know if that's correct but the HEAP told me and I wasn't about to ARGUE!) ..."

DIAMOND JIM
West Springfield, Montana

... Many thanks, Diamond Jim, for such a long and interesting letter that raises so many questions we can make an entire letters/editorial page real interesting just by answering it — HORROR-MOOD readers know that rarely do we print an entire letter, and especially one this long, but this one gives us an opportunity to answer so many questions that are asked in letters we receive every day that it seems a good idea, which we may repeat again — so y'all take note, rabid readers, this is to announce a SPECIAL CONTEST FOR THE BEST LETTER ASKING THE MOST QUESTIONS ... we'll devote a future letters page to the winning entry ... the FIRST PRIZE (and only one person

wins so there's only gonna BE a FIRST PRIZE) is an autographed copy of the current issue PLUS, namely, we'll answer all your dumb questions ... send your entries in now to SKYWALD SPECIAL CONTEST FOR THE BEST LETTER ASKING THE MOST QUESTIONS, c/o THE ARCHAIC EDITOR, SKYWALD PUBLISHING CORPORATION, 18 East 41st Street room 1501, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK 10017 ...

... taking Diamond Jim's questions from the top and plunging into the MOOD of things ... FABA will continue to be featured as a cover artist — his most current cover is the one for SCREAM #6 (yes, FABA ad-

mits the guy holding the skull is PETER CUSHING), and a cover called MIDST THE GRAVES OF THE LIVING DEAD which'll make you choke for breath ...

... the artist for THE DEATH PIT was none other than DWARFISH DOMINGO, whose continuing madness includes such 1 page masterpieces as OLD HORRORS and THE GRAVE IN THE SWAMP ... DOMINGO is an exceptional cover artist too, as readers know by his rendering of THE SLITHER-SLIME MAN in PSYCHO #9 and THE OLD VAMPIRE LADY in PSYCHO #16 and he's working on another weird work right now ...

my favorite story this issue is :

comment :

name : age :

address :

city n' other :

mail to: SKYWALD BEST STORY
Skywald Publishing Corporation
18 East 41st Street Rm 1501
New York City, N.Y. 10017

THE RED
DEATH
is coming
soon



... Messrs. CARDONA and COLLADO were very well received indeed, according to THE HORROR - MOOD MAIL-BAG, and you can watch for COLLADO'S upcoming TOMORROW THE SNOWMAN WILL KILL YOU, THE GHOST OF THE CORPSE and A TALE OF HORROR ... CARDONA, meanwhile, is the artist for THE VAULT and THE SCREAM AND THE NIGHTMARE (both are in the shoggoth series, formerly illustrated by CESAR), plus THE MAN WITH NO FACE ...

... CESAR, meanwhile, is totally tied up with the popular NOSFERATU, which is so popular it is translated and published in many languages in Europe

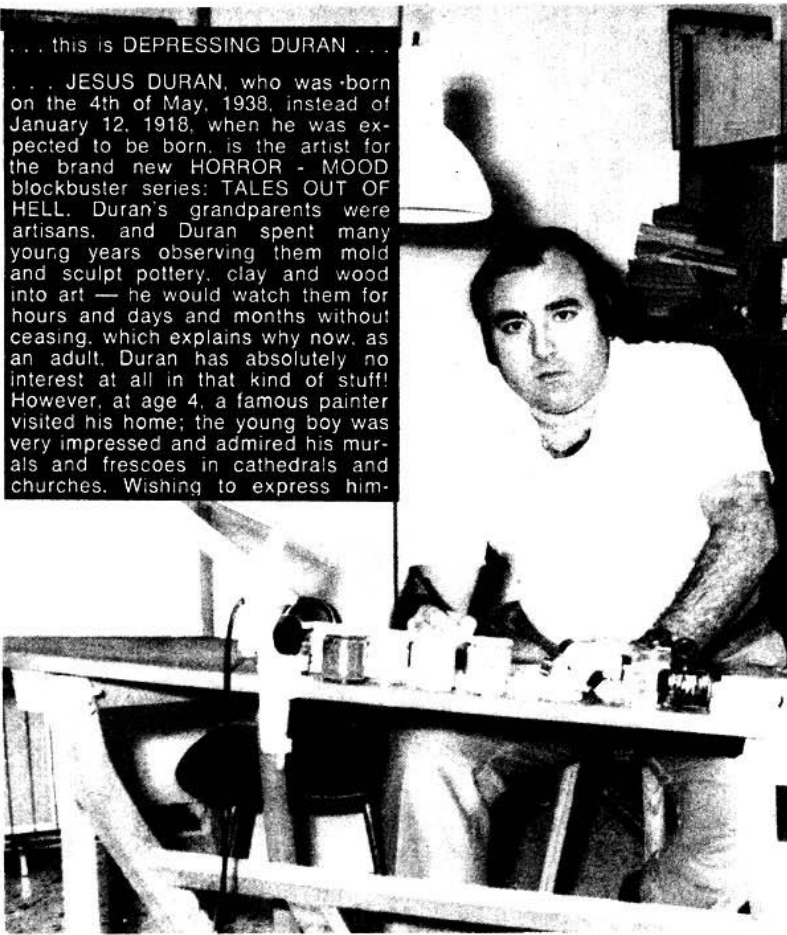
... MAELO CINTRON is returning with THE HUMAN GARGOYLES on a regular schedule (and watch for the special HUMAN GARGOYLES COVER coming soon by artist SEGRELLES) ... RANCID RICARDO VILLAMONTE is featured just about every issue with a tale, and his cover stories for the upcoming SUMMER YEARBOOKS are magnificent - watch for INTERVIEW WITH A GRAVE-ROBBER in the NIGHTMARE YEARBOOK and THE DAY OF THE VAMPIRE - THE NIGHT OF THE WEREWOLF in the PSYCHO YEARBOOK ... MARO NAVA will be appearing soon with SPECIAL HORROR DELIVERY ... BORRELL will be appearing soon with the ED FEDORY scripted tale: THE BURIAL VAULT OF PRIMAL ELD ... DROWNING DENNIS FUJITAKE will be featured in the centerfold of the NIGHTMARE YEARBOOK with his tale ESCAPE ... an' as for the HEAP - well, as just about all of fandom must know by now, the HEAP is being re-vamped into an all-new character - one you LITERALLY gotta SEE to BELIEVE ...

... did we answer all the questions? I certainly hope so, namely 'cause we've run out of space ... if you have something to say - WRITE ... if you have nothing to say - then READ ON MacDuff ... rest in peace

ARCHAIC AL

... this is DEPRESSING DURAN ...

... JESUS DURAN, who was born on the 4th of May, 1938, instead of January 12, 1918, when he was expected to be born, is the artist for the brand new HORROR - MOOD blockbuster series: TALES OUT OF HELL. Duran's grandparents were artisans, and Duran spent many young years observing them mold and sculpt pottery, clay and wood into art - he would watch them for hours and days and months without ceasing, which explains why now, as an adult, Duran has absolutely no interest at all in that kind of stuff! However, at age 4, a famous painter visited his home; the young boy was very impressed and admired his murals and frescoes in cathedrals and churches. Wishing to express him-



self artistically, and inspired by the magnificence of the old painter, Duran drew an excellent portrait of a blade of grass, which everyone disliked so much he wasn't spoken to until the age of 14, when, out of desperation, he joined the Spanish Military Academy. No one spoke to him there either so he left to join an acting group, and appeared in a movie with Errol Flynn. Errol Flynn wouldn't speak to him either so he retired to a dingy attic where he's been very successful talking to himself, and producing artwork for science-fiction, western, love, adventure, and children's magazines. Duran is now firmly established with the HORROR-MOOD publications, and will be appearing regularly. When we told him he'd be appearing on these editorial pages, he asked us to say: 'I send all the readers my best regards!' - a nice sentiment which, despite our kidding in his 'biography', we all return to him thousandfold! ...



THE SAGA OF THE HUMAN GARGOYLES RETURNS

... after a delay of some issues, THE HUMAN GARGOYLES return to these HORROR-MOOD pages to horrify, mystify and terrify - the most popular characters in the HISTORY of SKYWALD art back to entertain you as only Macabre Maelo Cintron and Archaic Al Hewetson know how ...

... in every issue of ...

NIGHTMARE



...LET ME CALL MYSELF FOR THE PRESENT, **WILLIAM WILSON**... OH, **OUTCAST OF ALL OUTCASTS**; I WOULD NOT, IF I COULD, HERE OR TODAY, EMBODY A RECORD OF MY LATER YEARS OF **UNSPEAKABLE MISERY**, AND **UNPARDONABLE CRIME**...

...LET ME SAY-- I AM-- **AN EVIL MAN**... OH **YES, TERRIBLY, AWFULLY EVIL**...

WRITTEN BY EDGAR ALLAN POE
ILLUSTRATED BY ALPHONSO FONT



...LET ME NOW REMEMBER MY **FIRST REMEMBERINGS**-- AT A LARGE, RAMBLING ELIZABETHAN SCHOOLHOUSE, IN A MISTY-LOOKING VILLAGE IN ENGLAND WHERE THERE WERE A VAST NUMBER OF **GIGANTIC AND SNARLED TREES**, AND WHERE **ALL THE HOUSES WERE EXCESSIVELY ANCIENT**...

...IT WAS THAT VERY **FIRST DAY**, OH GODS, OH **HORRORS**, THAT I FIRST MET **HIM**... HIS NAME-- WAS THE **SAME AS MINE**... HIS **BIRTHDATE** - JANUARY 19, 1813-- WAS THE **SAME AS MINE**... HIS **CLOTHES**, HIS **WALK**, HIS **WAYS**-- ALL THE **SAME AS MINE**... HIS **FACE**-- **LORD**-- HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY OWN REFLECTION, SO **IDENTICAL** WAS HE IN **EVERYWAY**!...

...BUT HIS **VOICE**, WAS NOT LIKE **MINE**... HE HAD SOME **PECULIAR AILMENT** OF THE **THROAT** WHICH PERMITTED HIM TO **SPEAK** ONLY IN A **LOW, GUTTERAL, AWFUL WHISPER**... BUT GOD... WHAT HE **SAID**-- THE WAY HE **SAID** IT... IT... WAS LIKE **LISTENING** TO MY OWN **VOICE** - **MOCKING ME**!

...LEAVE THEM ALONE WILSON... LEAVE THEM BE...

I'M ONLY HAVING **FUN**... WHO DO YOU THINK YOU **ARE** TO TELL **ME** WHAT TO DO?

...WHO AM I?...
...I AM...

WILLIAM WILSON



...EDGAR ALLAN POE'S MASTERPIECE OF HORROR



...I WAS *RESOLVED* TO CATCH HIM *ALONE* AND BEAT THE WITS OUT OF HIM -- I *HATED* HIM-- I *DESPISED* HIM... *LOATHED* HIM... I ADMIT I *FEARED* HIM... I *WANTED* -- TO -- *KILL HIM*



I LEFT AND CAME TO
OXFORD WHERE,
UPON MY TWENTY-
FIRST BIRTHDAY, I
INHERITED A VAST
FORTUNE...
WHICH I BEGAN TO
SPEND FREELY--
ENGAGING IN THE MOST
DELICIOUS
DEBAUCHERIES...
FOR TWO YEARS -- I
DID NOT SEE WILSON
-THE- OTHER... I
HAD, IN FACT,
FORGOTTEN ALL
ABOUT HIM
COMPLETELY...



...TIE HER UP...
LET'S... HAVE SOME
FUN...



HAHAHAHA
HA HA HA



...OH
GOD...



...WILLIAM
WILSON...

...IT WAS **ANOTHER** TWO YEARS BEFORE I **AGAIN** SAW HIM...
I HAD IN THIS **MEANTIME** **SUNK** TO EVEN **FURTHER** **DEPTHS**
OF **DEPRAVITY**-- I WAS AN INVETERATE **GAMBLER**, A
DRUNKARD- **MORE**- **OFTEN**- **THAN**- **NOT**, COMPLETELY AT THE
WHIMS OF MY **OPIUM** **HABIT**, A **FIEND**, AND...**WORTHLESS**
TO **MYSELF** AND TO THE **WORLD**...



...ON ONE NIGHT, WHEN I
WAS ENGAGED IN
CHEATING A **WEALTHY**
YOUNG FOOL OUT OF HIS
FORTUNE, A **LUST** TO
CRIPPLE ANOTHER
HUMAN BEING TOOK
HOLD OF ME -- AND
I RESOLVED TO **RUIN**
MY CARD PARTNER
COMPLETELY...



...I... I AM
RUINED...

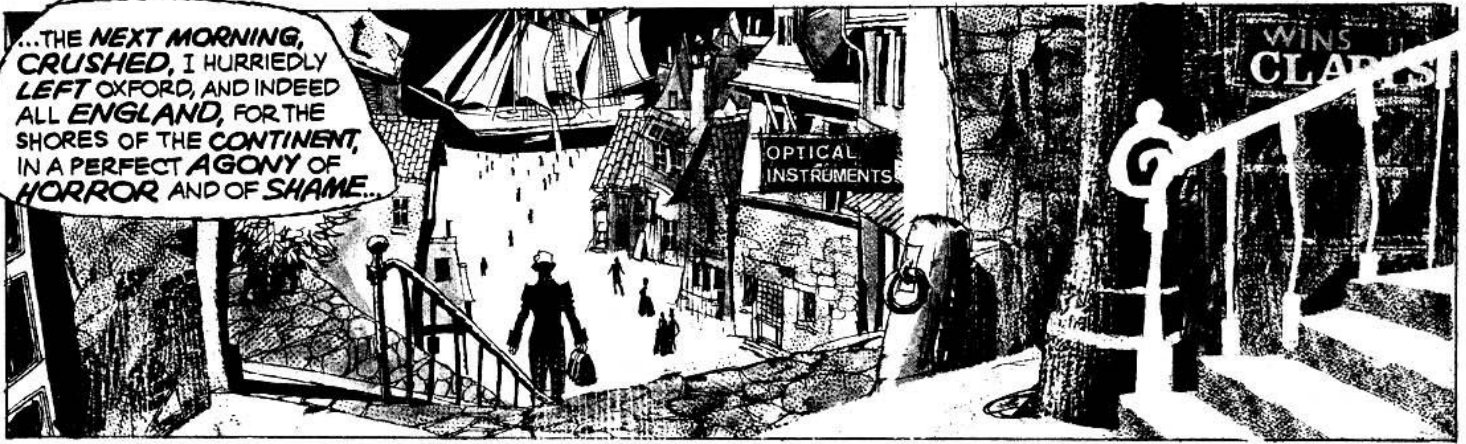
I DON'T **UNDERSTAND** -- I
UNDERSTOOD YOU TO BE A
WEALTHY MAN...

...YOU HAVE JUST
ACQUIRED ALL MY
WEALTH MR.
WILSON...

...I AM...
PENILESS...



...THE NEXT MORNING, CRUSHED, I HURRIEDLY LEFT OXFORD, AND INDEED ALL ENGLAND, FOR THE SHORES OF THE CONTINENT, IN A PERFECT AGONY OF HORROR AND OF SHAME...



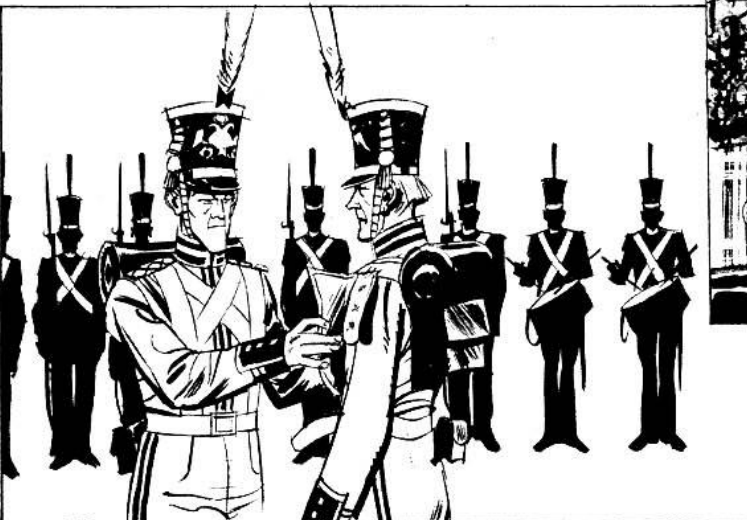
...I FLED IN VAIN... SCARCELY HAD I SET FOOT IN PARIS WHEN WILSON-THE-OTHER APPEARED ... AGAIN BRINGING ME DISGRACE...



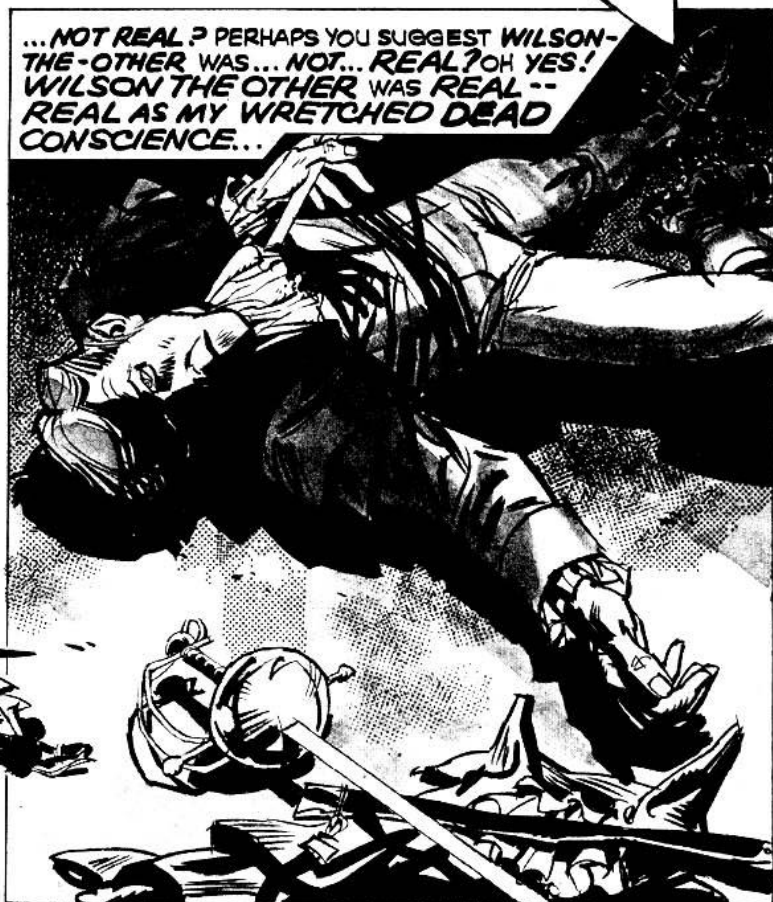
WILLIAM! - AT ROME HE STEPPED BETWEEN ME AND MY AMBITIONS...



...AT VIENNA, TOO -- AT BERLIN -- AND AT MOSCOW! WHERE? - IN TRUTH, HAD I NOT BITTER CAUSE TO CURSE HIM WITH ALL MY HEART? I FLED TO THE VERY ENDS OF THE EARTH --- I FLED IN VAIN...







...THE PUBLISHERS' PREFACE: THE VAULT...

...IN THE PAGES OF **SKYWALD** WE HAVE, THROUGH THE YEARS, PRESENTED A SERIES OF DOCUMENTED 'STORIES' ALLUDING TO THE EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN HISTORIC 'BEINGS' ALIVE IN OUR OWN TIMES... THE TALES OF THESE BIZARRE 'SHOGGOTHS' HAVE BEEN TOLD IN STORIES SUCH AS: **THIS ARCHAIC BREEDING GROUND... WHERE ARE THE INHABITANTS OF EARTH?...** AND... **THE SKULL FOREST OF OLD EARTH...** NOW IN THIS TALE OF HORRORS **BENEATH THE EARTH** IN '**THE VAULT**' WE AGAIN ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE YOU THAT THESE HIDEOUS MONSTERS OF WHICH WE SPEAK ARE AS **REAL** AS **YOU** AND THE FRIENDS AND FAMILIAR ONES WHO SURROUND YOU... WE PRESENT THESE TALES NOT AS FICTION BUT AS UNDENIABLE **TRUTHS**, AS WERE FIRST WARNED IN THE WORKS OF WEIRD WRITER **H.P. LOVECRAFT** WHO UNCOVERED THEIR EXISTENCE THROUGH THE ATROCIOUS **NECRONOMICON**, A BLACK AND OBSCENE VOLUME OF FORGOTTEN AND ANGRY LORE WRIT BY THE MAD ARAB **ABDUL ALHAZRED**... WE LET THE TALE BE TOLD BY ARTIST **JOSE CARDONA** AND OUR EDITOR-WRITER **ARCHAIC AL HEWETSON**,

...THIS IS THEIR TALE...MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ALL OUR SOULS...



...IN SCOTLAND, IN COUNTY KILMARNOCK, 350 YEARS OF MY ANCESTORS CLUSTER WITHIN A WRETCHED GREY VAULT...THERE ARE TWO 'SPACES' LEFT WITHIN ITS HOLD; ONE FOR MY FATHER WHEN HE DIES, AND ONE FOR ME WHEN I DIE --THEN THE VAULT WILL BE SEALED AND CEMENTED SHUT FOR ALL ETERNITY...

...I CAME TO THIS PLACE TO SEE IT TO SENSE THE MACABRE KINSHIP OF 18 DEAD BLOOD RELATIVES I KNOW NOTHING OF SAVE THAT THEIR BLOOD RUNS THROUGH MY LIVE VEINS...

...AND SO I OBSERVED THE DEAD ABOUT ME...
...AND THE OPPRESSION OF THE GREYSTONE VAULT...
...AND RESOLVED TO LEAVE, AS QUICKLY AS I HAD COME... FOR TO BE IN THIS **HELLISH CRYPT**, WAS TO BE WITHIN **HELL ITSELF**...



...THE **SHOGGOTH CHRONICLES** - VOLUME 5...

WRITTEN BY **HOWIE ANDERSON**
ILLUSTRATED BY **CARDONA**

THE

VAULT

...I WAS ON MY WAY TO GLASGOW BY TRAIN, SOON TO JOIN MY FRIEND JOSE CARDONA AND TO HOLIDAY WITH HIM IN FRANCE, WHEN I FELL INTO DISCUSSION WITH THE OLD GENTLEMAN WHO SHARED THE COMPARTMENT WITH ME...

...VISITING THE GRAVES OF MY ANCESTORS... THEY'RE WITHIN A **VAULT** IN THE **WELLOCH GRAVESITES**...

...**THE WELLOCH GRAVESITES??**



YOU KNOW KILMARNOCK WELL DO YOU MR. WIGGINS?

AYE...I DO LAD... WHERE WAS IT YOU WERE IN KILMARNOCK?



YES - WHAT IS SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT?

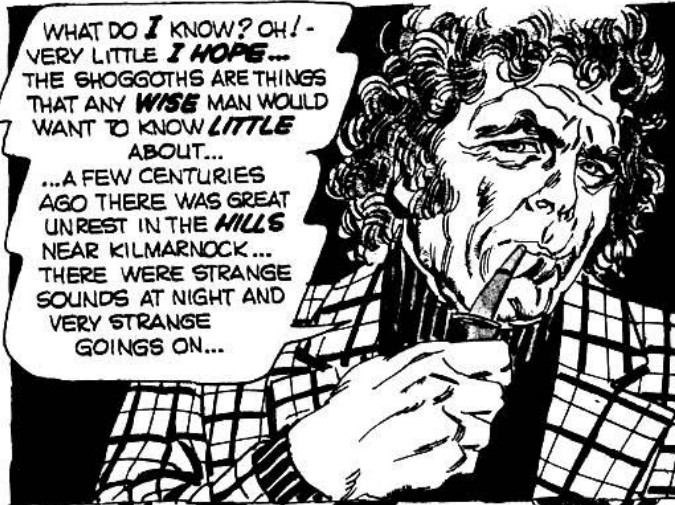
...THAT IS... SHOGGOTH COUNTRY...



...IT'S **WHAT?**

...THAT WAS A BURIAL GROUND FOR THEM CENTURIES AGO...IT IS IN THE LEGENDS OF THE COUNTRY...

...WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE **SHOGGOTHS** SIR?



WHAT DO I KNOW? OH! - VERY LITTLE **I HOPE**... THE SHOGGOTHS ARE THINGS THAT ANY **WISE** MAN WOULD WANT TO KNOW **LITTLE** ABOUT...

...A FEW CENTURIES AGO THERE WAS GREAT UNREST IN THE **HILLS** NEAR KILMARNOCK... THERE WERE STRANGE SOUNDS AT NIGHT AND VERY STRANGE GOINGS ON...

*...THE PEOPLE OF KILMARNOCK **ARMED** THEMSELVES ONE NIGHT AND WENT UP INTO THE **HILLS**...WITHIN A LITTLE **VALLEY**, IT IS SAID, THEY SAW WITH THEIR OWN EYES THE **STRANGEST SIGHT EVER SEEN BY MAN**... A **HOST** OF **GROTESQUES** **SQUATTED** IN THE **GULLY** **MOANING** AND **GROANING** AND **BURYING** THEIR **FACES** IN THE **DUST**... THE **SOUNDS** WERE **AKIN** TO **WAILING** AND **WEEPING**... AND AS THEY **WATCHED** - IT BECAME **CLEAR** THE **THINGS** WERE **BURYING** THEIR OWN **DEAD**..."



"...THE VILLAGERS WERE FROZEN IN FEAR, AND COULD DO NOTHING BUT **WATCH** AS THE MONSTERS PUT THEIR DEAD BENEATH THE GROUND - THEN SET **FIRE** TO THE **VERY EARTH ITSELF**..."



...THEN... **TIME** PASSED... THE NIGHT OF THE **SHOGGOTHS** WAS **FORGOTTEN**... AND THE SITE WAS EVENTUALLY USED AS A **CHRISTIAN BURIAL YARD**...

...AND CALLED...

...THE **WELLOCH GRAVESITE**...



...AND THEN?...

THEN THE VILLAGERS WENT BACK TO THEIR HOMES... AND THAT GULLY WASN'T VISITED AGAIN FOR SEVERAL YEARS, SO AFRAID WERE THE GOOD CITIZENS OF KILMARNOCK OF WHAT COULD BEFALL THEM

DARE THEY VENTURE NEAR THAT UNHOLY BURIAL PLACE...



...WELL - WHAT DO YOU THINK JOSE? YOU THINK THERE'S ANY **TRUTH** IN THE OLD MAN'S STORY?



...THERE **MIGHT** BE AL...
...YOU THINKING OF MAKING A **DETOUR** ON OUR TRIP TO **PARIS**?

YEH! JUST A **LITTLE** DETOUR...



...IN THE **OPPOSITE DIRECTION**...
BACK TO THE **WELLOCH GRAVESITE**...

Y'KNOW... IF WE CAN FIND SOME SORT OF **EVIDENCE**... **REAL** EVIDENCE... LIKE **BONES** OR SOMETHING... WE'LL BE IN A POSITION TO **PROVE** TO THE **AUTHORITIES** THE **EXISTENCE** OF THE **SHOGGOTHS**...

...MAYBE...



...WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BEGIN TO **LOOK?** AND WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR ANYWAY?

...LET'S ASK THE **VAULT-KEEPER**...
...WE'LL BE **SUBTLE**
HOW WE ASK...

...EXCUSE ME...
WHERE ARE THE **SHOGGOTH GRAVES?**

THE **WHAT?**



...WE HEARD -**AHH- RUMORS** THAT **BEASTS** WERE BURIED HEREABOUTS...



BEASTS? YE'R OFF YER HEADS...
THERE NO BEASTS 'ROUND HERE...

...SAVE FOR THE **WEE UNES** YER
STANDIN' ON THIS
MINUTE...

STANDING ON?



...WHAT DO YOU MEAN **WEE UNES?**

...THE **WEE UNES** THEY TELL ABOUT IN **OLD WOMEN'S TALES**...
THE WIRD WEE IS A **JOKE**... FER THE 'THINGS' WERE AS BIG AS **HOUSES** AN' AS STRONG AS **BULLS**...

...TWO YOUNG MEN LIKE YERSELLES SURELY DINNA BELIEVE THAT **TOMMYROT?** EH?

...BELIEVE?...
...OH NO...



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

WE'LL COME BACK AT **NIGHT**... WITH **SHOVELS!!**...

"...AT NIGHT WE RETURNED...WITH A SHOVEL EACH... AND UPON THE VERY SPOT WHERE WE'D COVERED WITH THE OLD MAN WE BEGAN TO DIG AND SEARCH..."



"...WE DUG UNTIL **DAWN** WITHOUT FINDING **ANYTHING** EXCEPT THE BONES OF A **DOG** ...AND WERE FORCED TO QUIT OUR **SEARCH** IN **EXHAUSTION** AND **EXASPERATION**..."



"...THE FOLLOWING NIGHT WE DARED RETURN-- BUT BEFORE WE MADE IT INTO THE GULLY GRAVESITE, WE HEARD **SOUNDS**, AND HID OURSELVES-- THINKING THEM TO COME FROM **GUARDING POLICEMEN**..."



"...AND 4 HOURS LATER WE WERE STILL DIGGING... AND STILL **SEARCHING**..."

"...Y'KNOW... IF THESE **SHOGGOTHS** WERE BURIED HERE SEVERAL **SENTURIES** AGO, THERE'S BOUND TO BE SEVERAL **LAYERS** OF **GROUND** BETWEEN **US** AN' THEIR **BONES**..."



"...THE SIGHT WE SAW IN THE **MOONLIGHT** **BOILED** THE **BLOOD** IN OUR **VEINS**..."





"... WE BELTED IT WITH OUR SHOVELS AS HARD AND AS FAST AS WAS POSSIBLE-- WE COULD NOT RUN OR FLEE-- THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD MAKE FIVE YARDS WITHOUT BEING SET UPON BY THE SHOGGOTH..."



"... IT HAD CALLED WITH ITS UNSOOLY SHRIEK TO OTHERS, WHO CAME OUT OF NOWHERE TO HEED THE CALL OF THE WOUNDED COMRADE..."







"...IT WAS AS JOSE SAID... IT WAS... THE ENTRANCE INTO **HELL**...

... IT WAS WHERE THE **SHOGGOths DWELLED**...
... WHERE THEY **BRED**... WHERE THEY **PLANNED** THE **CONQUEST** OF THE **SURFACE**...

... WHERE DEATH WAS LIFE, AND LIFE WAS NEVER KNOWN...

...TO THIS PLACE THE SHOGGOths HAD COME, IT WAS OBVIOUS, TO GATHER IN THE NATURAL CAVERNS, TO BUILD A CITY AND A SOCIETY ONLY ALHAZRED DARED WRITE OF... TO REPRODUCE THEIR KIND 'TILL THEIR EVIL WAS STRENGTHENED BY THEIR NUMBERS...
...THESE PLACES ARE KNOWN... ONE IS AT THE PLACE KNOWN AS THE **MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS** IN ANTARCTICA, ANOTHER IS AT A PLACE IN EGYPT, AND NOW **THIS** PLACE **UNDER SCOTLAND**... **UNDER** ITS VERY **GROUND**... **UNDER** **MODERN SOCIETY ITSELF**...



WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE'LL EVER NEED JOSE... IF WE CAN CONVINCE THE AUTHORITIES TO COME ARMED TO SEE THIS PLACE WE'LL FINALLY **ACCOMPLISH** SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF **ENDING** THE **SHOGGOth THREAT**...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN **YEARS** WE HAVE **EVIDENCE** OF THEIR EXISTENCE...

...BUT... HOW DO WE GET **OUT** OF HERE?



"...BY ALMOST UNNATURAL COINCIDENCE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT THERE CAME A GREAT **RUSHING SOUND** IN THE CORRIDOR AND WE SAW THE **SHOGGOths BOUNDING TOWARDS US**... WE **HID** IN THE **BLACK** SHADOWS AS THEY GALLOPED PAST US..."



"...THEN **RAN** LIKE **HELL** FOR THE **EXIT**..."



...THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE **SADDEST**
EPYLOGUE TO A STORY **EVER!**...
YOU WANT TO TELL THE READERS
ABOUT IT, AL?...



...YEH!!! I'LL
TELL IT...IF YOU'LL DRAW
IT JOSE...WELL, OBVIOUSLY, WE
MADE IT BACK TO THE **VAULT** OKAY
WITHOUT ANY **FURTHER**
CONFRONTATION WITH
THE **SHOGGOTHS**... THEN
WE WENT TO THE **POLICE**...
WHO JUST... **LAUGHED** AT
US...WE WENT
TO THE **ARMY**...
AND **THEY** JUST
LAUGHED... THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT
JUST **LAUGHED**... THE
AMERICAN CONSUL
JUST **LAUGHED**...

"...THERE WAS **NOTHING** WE COULD DO BUT RETURN THERE **OURSELVES**
AND TRY TO **END** THAT **FOUL CITY** BY LAYING IT TO **TOTAL WASTE**...
WE WENT BACK ARMED WITH **DYNAMITE** AND HIGH POWERED RIFLES
--INTENDING TO BLOW THE ENTIRE AREA TO SHREDS...WHEN WE
ENTERED THE CITY IT WAS... **EMPTY!**..."



...THAT'S A
LAUGH...

...YEH... **THAT'S** A **LAUGH**...
THE **AUTHORITIES** COULDN'T GIVE A
SWEET DAMN ABOUT THE
SHOGGOTH MENACE -- **GOD**
KNOWS WHERE THE MONSTERS
ARE **NOW** -- AT THIS MINUTE
PLOTTING AGAINST
MANKIND SOMEWHERE...

"...THO IT MAY BE **ANTI-CLIMATIC** FOR A **STORY**, THE
TRUTH IN LIFE IS **OFTEN** **ANTI-CLIMATIC**...AND THE
OBVIOUS **TRUTH** WAS THAT THE **SHOGGOTHS**, FAILING
TO CAPTURE OR KILL THEIR **DISCOVERERS**, (US), HAD
JUST **LEFT**... FEARING THEIR **DISCOVERY** BY THE
AUTHORITIES..."

...YOU SEE THIS
PLUNGER?... IT'S A
DETONATOR FOR **8**
THOUSAND POUNDS OF
DYNAMITE SPREAD ABOUT

INSIDE THAT **HELL-HOLE CITY**... EITHER
AL OR I COULD PRESS IT AND BLOW
THE CITY INTO HELL BUT... BUT JUST
MAYBE ONE OF **YOU** BELIEVE
OUR **STORY**...JUST **MAYBE** ONE
OF **YOU** **READERS**
WILL WANT TO
OBILITERATE
THAT **WRETCHED**
BLACK PIT...

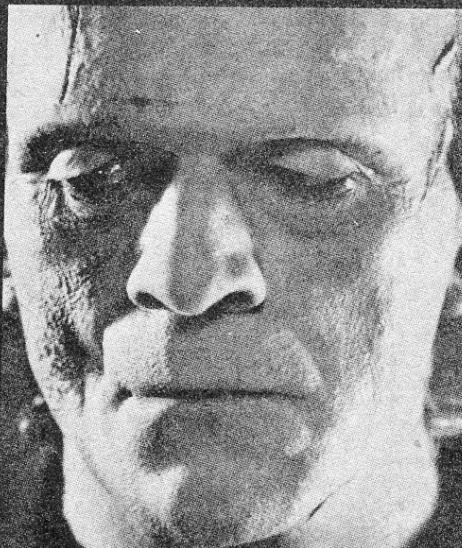


KARAAAWAUMPHH



THE GREAT CLASSIC MONSTER-MEN

... a special photo-
centerfold presentation
of the great, classic
monster - men of the
scream screen ...



Boris Karloff as FRANKENSTEIN



Christopher Lee as THE MUMMY



Bela Lugosi as DRACULA



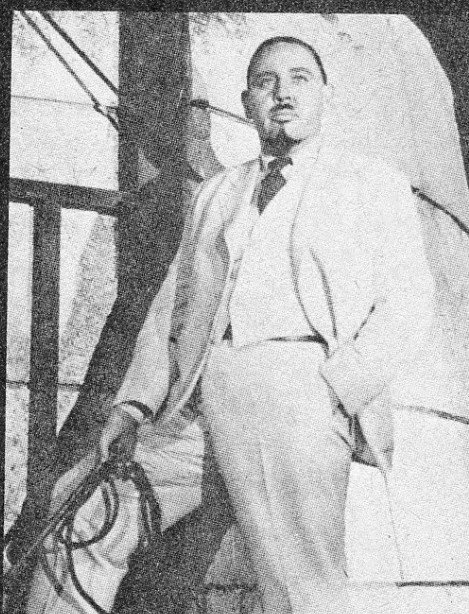
Lon Chaney Jr. as THE WOLFMAN



Lon Chaney as THE PHANTOM



Lon Chaney as THE HUNCHBACK



Charles Laughton as DR. MOREAU



Christopher Lee as DRACULA



John Barrymore as MR. HYDE



Lon Chaney as MR. WU



Vincent Price as DR. PHIBES



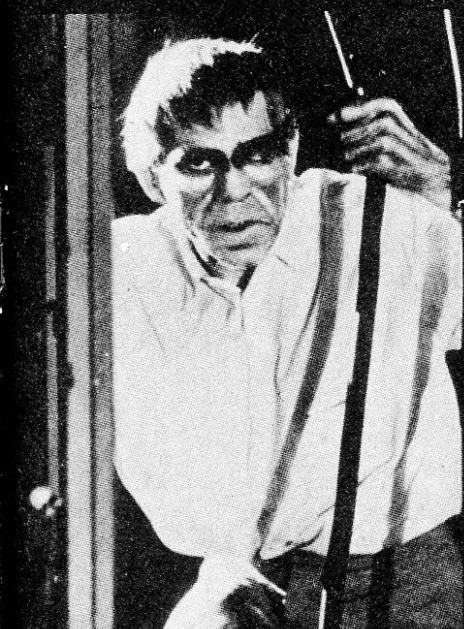
William Marshall as BLACULA



Boris Karloff as THE MUMMY



Lon Chaney as VAMPIRE OF LONDON



Boris Karloff as THE GHOUL



Max Schreck as NOSFERATU

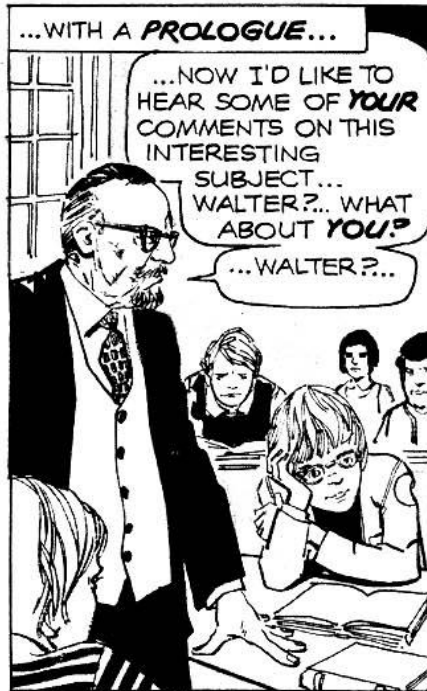
... these monster-makers are the men who have portrayed the classic monsters - who have defined in our visual imagination the appearance of the mad men, monsters, and men-macabre of great horror literature — the world knows more about Boris Karloff's FRANKENSTEIN than it knows about the work of Mary Shelley — and it knows the world of DRACULA from the portrayals of Bela Lugosi and Christopher Lee . . . these are the men who have made the movie monster one of the most popular forms of entertainment in the 20th century . . .



... WE BEGIN...

...NOW THAT WE'VE STUDIED THE **MYTHS** OF **ROME** AND **GREECE** IN OUR **HISTORY CLASS**... YOU MUST HAVE AN **IDEA** WHERE MODERN WRITERS GET THEIR **IDEAS** FOR POPULAR **SWORD** AND **SORCERY** STORIES... AS YOU'VE SEEN IN PULPS AND POCKET BOOKS

AND...
...EVEN IN **COMIC BOOKS**...



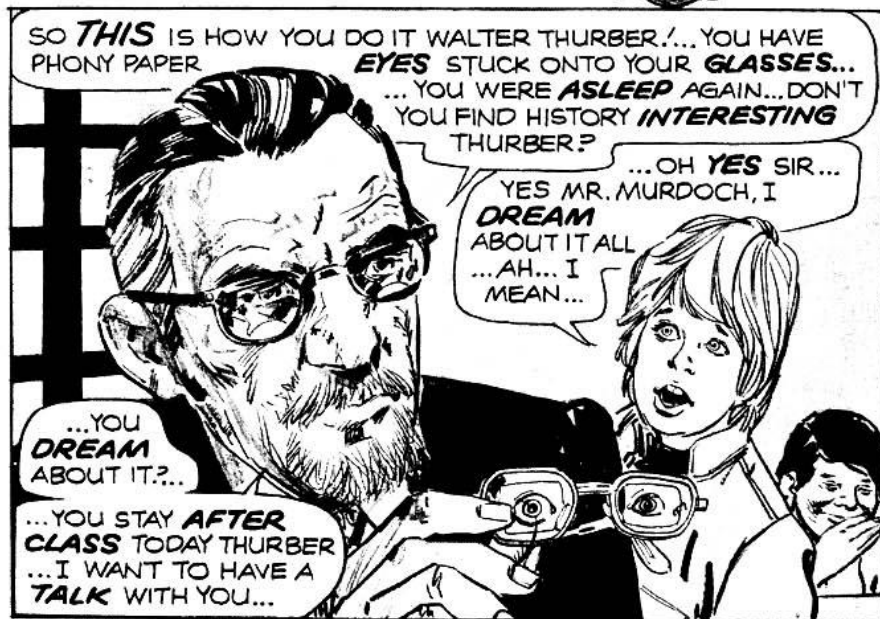
...WITH A **PROLOGUE**...

...NOW I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOME OF **YOUR** COMMENTS ON THIS INTERESTING SUBJECT...
WALTER?.. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
... **WALTER?..**



THURBER!! ARE YOU **ASLEEP** AGAIN?

...HUHH?



SO **THIS** IS HOW YOU DO IT **WALTER THURBER**... YOU HAVE **PHONY PAPER**

EYES STUCK ONTO YOUR **GLASSES**...
... YOU WERE **ASLEEP** AGAIN... DON'T YOU FIND HISTORY **INTERESTING** **THURBER?**

...OH **YES** SIR...
YES MR. **MURDOCH**, I **DREAM** ABOUT IT ALL
...AH... I MEAN...

...YOU **DREAM** ABOUT IT?..

...YOU STAY **AFTER CLASS** TODAY **THURBER**... I WANT TO HAVE A **TALK** WITH YOU...

...THIS IS **WALTER THURBER**... HE IS NOT A **DUMMY** BY **ANY** MEANS... HE'S JUST **BORED**... HE'S **APATHETIC** TO THE SUBJECTS TAUGHT HIM--OR, AT LEAST, BY THE **WAY** THEY'RE TAUGHT HIM... HE'D RATHER **DAYDREAM** AND **FANTASIZE HIMSELF** IN THE ROMANTIC SITUATIONS PRESENTED TO HIM BY HIS TEACHERS...

...THUS STARTS **CHAPTER ONE** OF NOT-THE-MOST-UNUSUAL CONTINUING CHARACTER--FOR **WALTER THURBER** IS JUST LIKE MOST OF US... AT LEAST AS WE **BEGIN**...

TALES written by
OUT OF **AL** **HEWETSON**
HELL illustrated by
JESUS DURAN



...NOW WALTER THURBER'S MIND **DRIFTS** AS THE TEACHER CONTINUES HIS LECTURE... HE **DRIFTS** INTO **ANOTHER DIMENSION**... ONE **WITHIN** HIM... SOMEWHAT **LESS-REAL**, BUT THEN, MUCH **MORE REAL**...

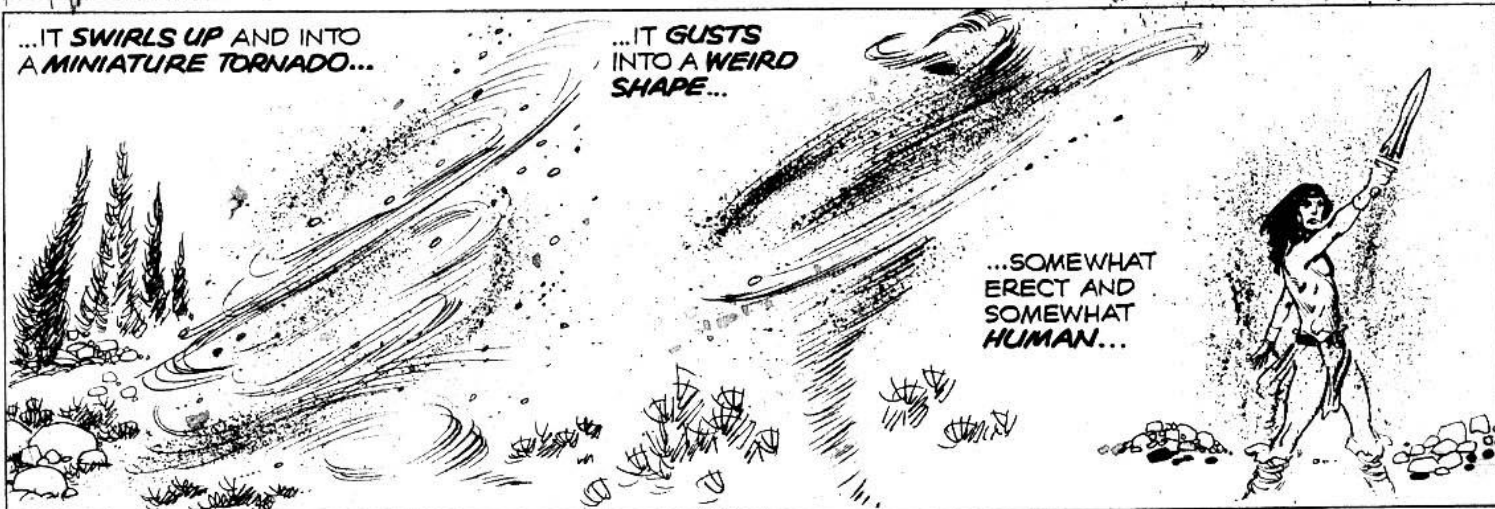
.. SO LET'S LOOK AT **ONE MYTH** WHICH IS A MINGLING OF **FACT** AND **FANTASY**... THIS STORY TOOK PLACE IN ANCIENT **CRETE** IN THE YEAR 810 B.C. ...

...IT IS **SPRING** AND THE **GROUND** IS **DRY** AND **DUSTY**... THESE IS A **MOVEMENT** IN THE **SANDS** AS OF GREAT **DISORDER** **WITHIN**...



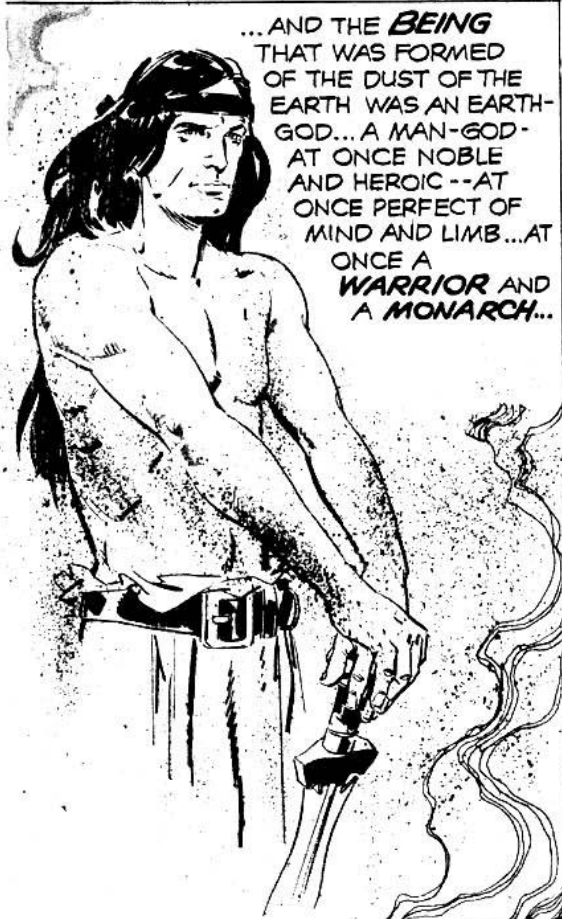
...IT **SWIRLS UP** AND INTO A **MINIATURE TORNADO**...

...IT **GUSTS** INTO A **WEIRD SHAPE**...



...SOMEWHAT **ERECT** AND **SOMEWHAT HUMAN**...

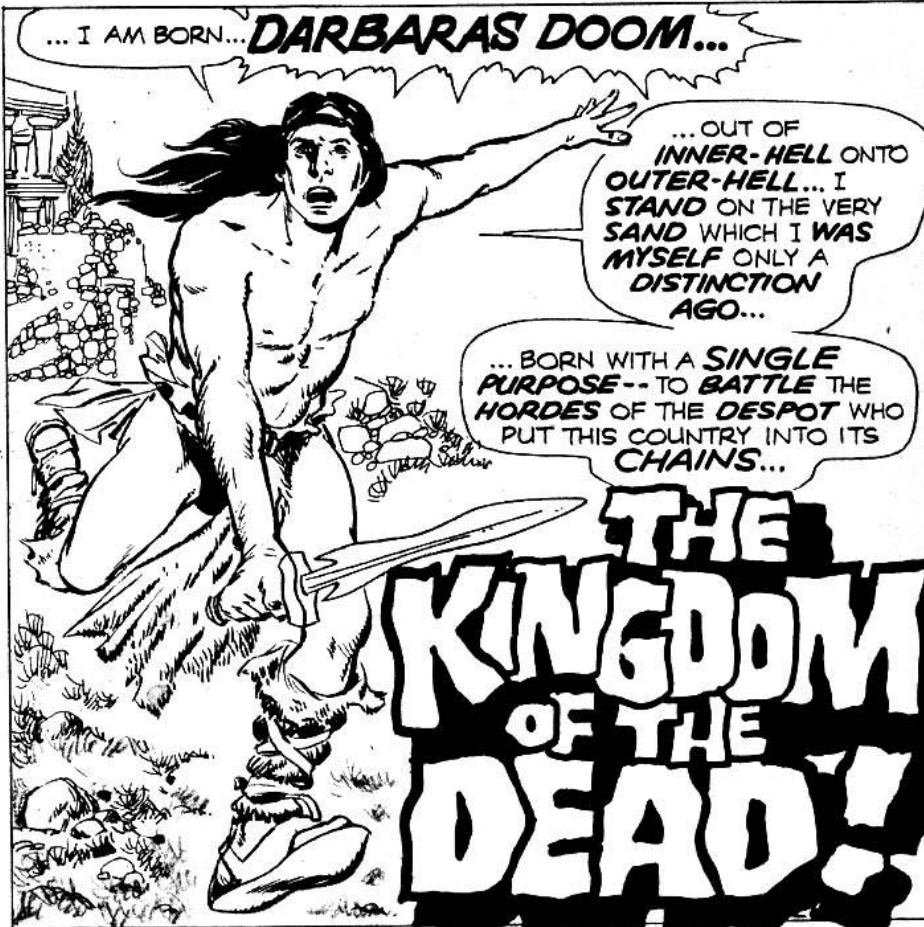
...AND THE **BEING** THAT WAS FORMED OF THE DUST OF THE EARTH WAS AN EARTH-GOD... A MAN-GOD-AT ONCE **NOBLE** AND **HEROIC**--AT ONCE PERFECT OF MIND AND LIMB...AT ONCE A **WARRIOR** AND A **MONARCH**...



... I AM BORN... **DARBARAS DOOM**...

... OUT OF **INNER-HELL** ONTO **OUTER-HELL**... I **STAND** ON THE VERY **SAND** WHICH I WAS **MYSELF** ONLY A **DISTINCTION** AGO...

... BORN WITH A **SINGLE PURPOSE**-- TO **BATTLE** THE **HORDES** OF THE **DESPOT** WHO PUT THIS COUNTRY INTO ITS **CHAINS**...



THE KINGDOM OF THE DEAD!

... **DARBARAS DOOM**-- SENT BY THE GODS OF THE PEOPLE TO BATTLE THEIR CORRUPT RULER--TO OVER-THROW THEIR **QUEEN**, A MERCILESS MONARCH NEITHER JUST NOR RIGHTEOUS... ONLY **EVIL**...
...HER NAME WAS **MELINIA**...

HIGHNESS... A **WARRIOR** STANDS AT THE GATE!

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

A WARRIOR STANDS AT THE GATE!

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID CRETIN... BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
-- WHAT WARRIOR IS THERE IN CRETE WHO IS NOT IN MY OWN GUARDS?

... I DO NOT **KNOW** HIM HIGHNESS... WE CHALLENGED HIM AND HE **DEMANDS** YOUR **PRESENCE** WHILE HE... AHH...

WHILE HE **WHAT?**

HE SAID-- WHILE HE "ENDS YOUR CORRUPT RULE"...

...WHERE IS THIS FOOL?...

AT THE GATE, MAJESTY



YOU--IMBECILE--

...DID YOU COME HERE
TO **DIE?**

...ARE YOU
THE MONARCH OF
THIS WRETCHED
KINGDOM?
...QUEEN MELINIA?

...YOU SEND AN **ARMY**
TO **MURDER ONE MAN?**

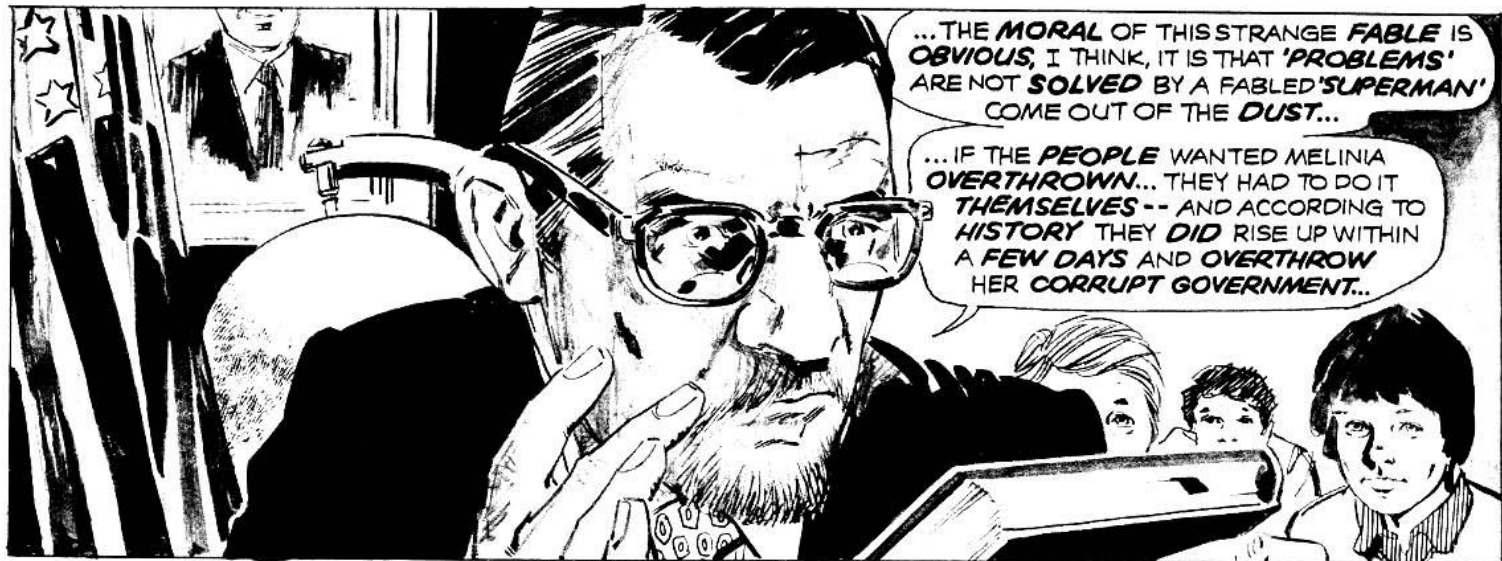
...IT WILL BE **SURPRISING**
TO YOU WHEN **ONE MAN** SO
EASILY DISPOSES OF YOUR
ARMY...

...**WARRIORS...**
TAKE TO YOUR
ARMS... APPROACH
THIS **LUNATIC** AND
KILL HIM...

...HE HAS **LOST** YOUR
MAJESTY...

... NOT
SOON
ENOUGH!!!...

...THE **TRUTHS** OF **HISTORY**, I'M
AFRAID, ARE SOMEWHAT LESS
ROMANTIC THAN **POPULAR**
FICTION...



...THE MORAL OF THIS STRANGE FABLE IS OBVIOUS, I THINK, IT IS THAT 'PROBLEMS' ARE NOT SOLVED BY A FABLED 'SUPERMAN' COME OUT OF THE DUST...

...IF THE PEOPLE WANTED MELINIA OVERTHROWN... THEY HAD TO DO IT THEMSELVES -- AND ACCORDING TO HISTORY THEY DID RISE UP WITHIN A FEW DAYS AND OVERTHROW HER CORRUPT GOVERNMENT...



NO... NO...

WHAT DID YOU SAY THURBER?-- THURBER-- WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU-- YOU LOOK-- LIKE YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE...

...IT... DIDN'T... HAPPEN LIKE THAT AT ALL... I... I KNOW...



...FOR I WAS THERE... I AM DABBARAS DOOM...

...I... DIDN'T LOSE... DIDN'T LOSE...

NURSE... CALL A DOCTOR -- A PSYCHIATRIST, AND CALL STUDENT WALTER THURBER'S PARENTS... TELL THEM TO COME TO YOUR OFFICE-- I'M BRINGING THE BOY TO YOU-- HE'S IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE OR SOMETHING...



COME ON THURBER ... COME WITH ME... YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT...

... LOOKS LIKE YOUR FANTASIES TOOK YOU A LITTLE TOO FAR THIS TIME BOY...



...I WON!
I WAS **BORN A WARRIOR**
...**BORN TO DO**
BATTLE... TO OVERTHROW
THE GOVERNMENT... IT
WAS MY SOLE **PURPOSE**
IN **BEING...**



...AND THE **PURPOSE** ONLY **HALF-FULFILLED**
WITH THE **DEFEAT** OF THE **QUEEN'S**
WARRIORS... I NOW SET ABOUT
COMPLETING MY TASK...



...I... I AM A
VICTIM OF MY
CIRCUMSTANCE,
WARRIOR...



...SPEAK
PLAINLY,
NOT IN
RIDDLES...

...THIS KINGDOM...
IS NOT INDEPENDENT
...WE ARE UNDER THE
SOVEREIGN RULE OF A
POWERFUL **OTHER**--
WHO WOULD LAY THE
KINGDOM TO **WASTE**
IF IT WERE NOT RUN
WITH AN **IRON**
FIST...

...I SET ABOUT
KILLING THE
QUEEN
MELINIA...



HAVE MERCY ON ME
WARRIOR... LET ME
SPEAK AND **EXPLAIN**
BEFORE YOU
KILL ME...

...WELL
THEN--
SPEAK...

NOW THAT
I AM HERE NO
FOREIGN POWER
NEED BE FEARED...
I WILL TAKE
COMMAND...

...THE
SIMPLETON...
P'RAPS I CAN **YET** SAVE
MY THRONE...

IF HE BELIEVED
THAT PAP HE
WILL BELIEVE
ANYTHING...



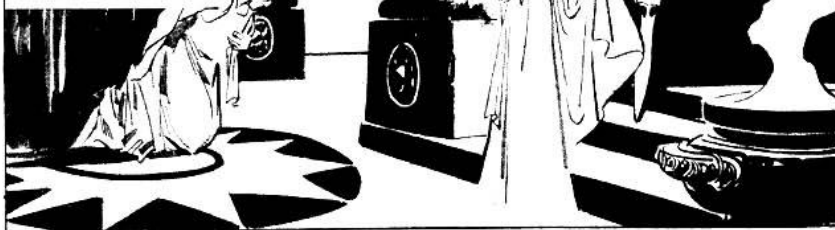
...YES MY LORD... YES... WITH
YOU BY MY SIDE TO GIVE ME
STRENGTH... WITH YOU AS **KING**
THIS LAND CAN ONCE AGAIN BE
JUST AND **NOBLE...**



...THUS WAS I DECEIVED BY THE **TREACHERY** OF MELINIA-- I WAS AN **INNOCENT** WHEN SHE TOOK MY HEART...YES... MY HEART... IT WAS NOT **REASON**, OR LUST FOR **POWER**, THAT HELD MY **SWORD**... IT WAS MY **LOVE**... I WAS **SMITTEN** BY HER **CHARM** AND **BEAUTY**... AND THE INSTANT I LOOKED INTO HER BLUE-DARK EYES I WAS **LOST TO HER**...



...AND WAS BLINDED TO HER TYRANNIES EVEN IN THE DAYS OF RULE THAT FOLLOWED... I CAME EITHER TO BELIEVE HER LAWS WERE JUST...OR... CAME NOT TO THINK OF THEM AT ALL...



...WHEN WE **TOURED THE LAND** I WAS NOT **APPALLED** BY THE **MISERY** OF THE **PEOPLE**... FOR I DID NOT **SEE IT**... I SAW ONLY **FALSE ADORATION**...



...HAD I LOOKED INTO THE **EYES** OF THE PEOPLE I WOULD HAVE SOON SEEN THEIR **DISTRUST** AND **FEAR** AND **HATRED**... BUT I DID NOT LOOK AT **THEM**... ONLY AT **HER**...



...**DARBARAS**... I HAVE... TO **CONFESS** TO YOU...



...HOW CAN ONE SO **SUBLIME** AS YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO **CONFESS**?

...BUT I **DO** **DARBARAS**, I **DO**...

...THAT FIRST DAY, **DARBARAS**, YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY WHEN I TOLD YOU OF THE SOVEREIGN POWER WHO OVER-RULED THIS KINGDOM...

...WHAT OF IT?...



...IT DOESN'T **EXIST**...

...IT **MATTERS** NOT MELINIA... ONLY YOUR **LOVE** FOR ME **MATTERS**



... THAT WAS MY **OTHER** DECEIT DARBARAS... I DID NOT LOVE YOU **THEN**... BUT I TELL YOU THESE THINGS **NOW** BECAUSE I HAVE **COME** TO LOVE YOU **GENUINELY**...

...YOU **LIED?**...

WELL... YES DARBARAS... BUT... DOES IT **MATTER** TO US **NOW?**



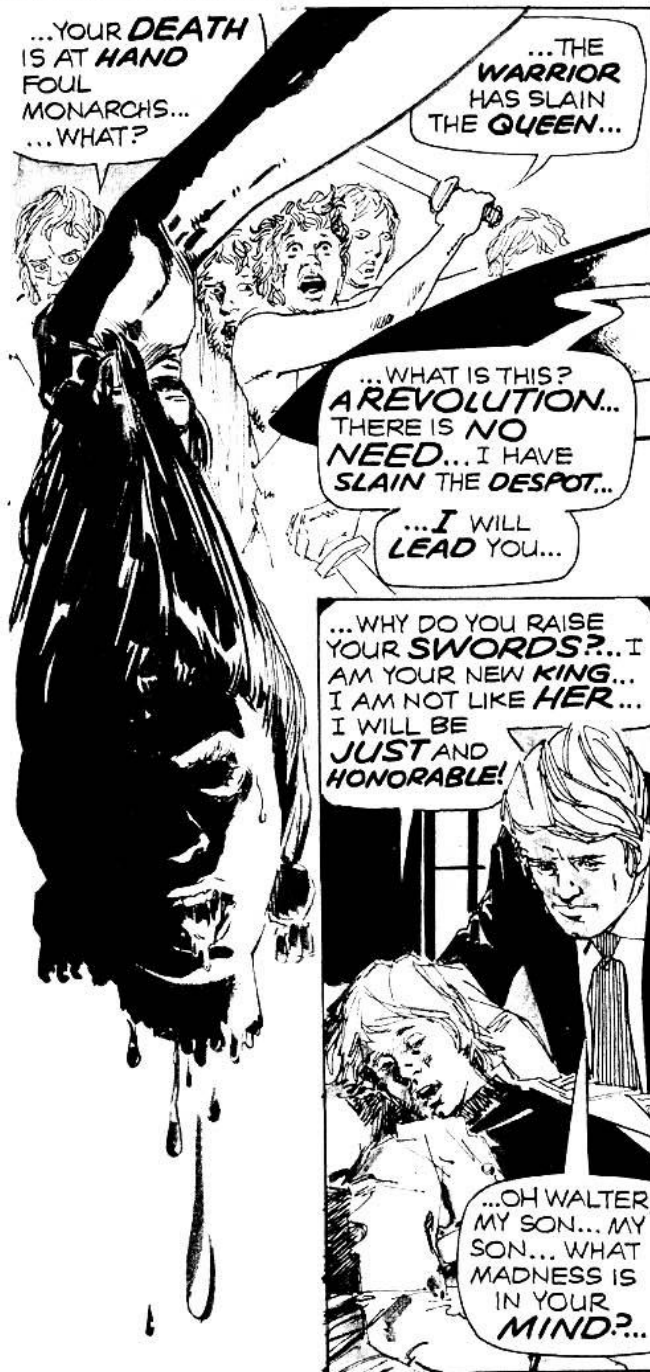
MATTER? OF COURSE IT MATTERS... I HAD FORGOTTEN MY **PURPOSE** ON THIS EARTH... ...TO SEE THE **END** OF YOU... ...NOW I SEE **THROUGH** YOUR THIN VEIL OF **DECEIT** WOMAN... AND I CAN NO LONGER LOVE THE **UGLINESS** I SEE IN YOU...

... BUT... BUT DARBARAS...



AAAAAH

... NOW I FULFIL MY **PURPOSE**...



... YOUR **DEATH** IS AT **HAND** FOUL MONARCHS... ... WHAT?

... THE **WARRIOR** HAS SLAIN THE **QUEEN**...

... WHAT IS THIS? A **REVOLUTION**... THERE IS NO **NEED**... I HAVE SLAIN THE **DESPOT**...

... I WILL **LEAD** YOU...

... WHY DO YOU RAISE YOUR **SWORDS**?... I AM YOUR NEW **KING**... I AM NOT LIKE **HER**... I WILL BE **JUST** AND **HONORABLE**!

... OH WALTER, MY SON... MY SON... WHAT **MADNESS** IS IN YOUR **MIND**?...



...WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH HIM DOCTOR... IS HE **MAD?**

...QUIET A MOMENT... I WANT TO HEAR THE **END** OF THIS STORY...

...WHY IS IT COME TO **THIS?** WHY? -- DO YOU NOT **TRUST ME...** DO YOU NOT **BELIEVE ME?**



WALTER!

AAAAAH



...WHAT?... MY SON IS **DYING?**

...NOT YOUR SON... THE ONE **WITHIN** HIM...

...IS HE **POSSESSED?**

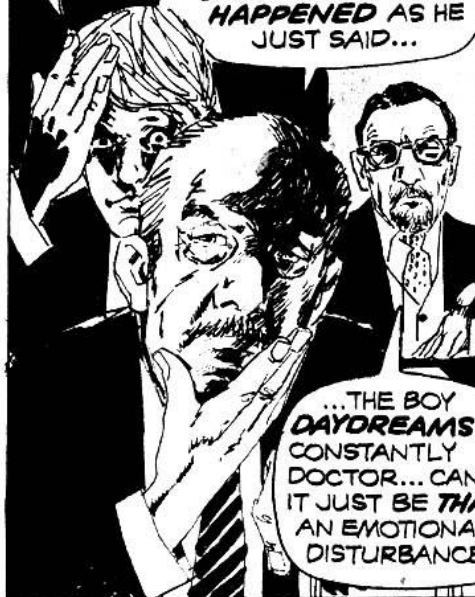
...THAT'S A VERY **OLD FASHIONED WORD** MR. MURDOCH... BUT **NO**, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE ANSWER **EXACTLY...**

...THEN IT'S A... FANTASY' OF... SOME SORT?... GOTTEN **OUT OF HAND?**

...NO... IT'S NOT THAT **EITHER**... NO... THIS IS HAPPENING... OR RATHER -- **ONCE UPON A TIME** I BELIEVE IT **HAPPENED** AS HE JUST SAID...

DOCTOR... MY GOD THE BOY IS **DEAD!!**

WHAT?



...THE BOY **DAYDREAMS** CONSTANTLY DOCTOR... CAN'T IT JUST BE **THAT?** AN EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE...





...THERE'S
NO PULSE...
NO
HEARTBEAT...

YES THERE
IS... IT'S VERY
FAINT... HE'S
ALRIGHT--
I'VE SEEN THIS
KIND OF THING
BEFORE...

...HE'S IN A
SELF-INDUCED
STATE OF
SUSPENDED
ANIMATION...
HE'S IN SHOCK...

...BUT HE
SHOULD BE
ALRIGHT...
I THINK...

...I CAN'T GIVE
YOU PROOF NOW...
BUT I'M AFRAID
I'LL BE ABLE
DEMONSTRATE
IT AS SOON AS
THE BOY AGAIN
SPEAKS...

...BUT DOCTOR... IF...
IF THE STORY THE BOY
TOLD WAS TRUE...
THEN WHAT ABOUT
HIS ORIGINS... OUT
OF THE DUST OF THE
EARTH...

...IF HE CORRECTED
MY TELLING OF HIS END
AS DARBARAS DOOM--
WHY WOULD HE NOT
TELL THE TRUTH
ABOUT HIS
BEGINNINGS...

...PERHAPS
THAT IS THE
BEGINNING
OF THE PROOF
WE SEEK... FOR
IN HIS PRESENT
STATE HE IS NOT
CAPABLE OF
ERROR OR
UNTRUTH...

...THESE 'DAYDREAMS' OF YOUR
SON ARE ONLY A COINCIDENCE, MR.
THURBER... OR PERHAPS... A
CATALYST... WHEN MR. MURDOCH
SPOKE OF DARBARAS DOOM THE
BOY WENT INTO HIS USUAL 'FANTASY
WORLD'... BUT HE DIDN'T COME
OUT... THE SHOCK OF
REALIZATION WAS
TOO MUCH
FOR HIM...

WHAT
DID HE
REALIZE?



...HE... REMEMBERED... THE
'STORY' THE WAY IT REALLY
HAPPENED BECAUSE... HE WAS
THERE-- BECAUSE, HE WAS
DARBARAS DOOM...

...ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE
ONLY CASE I'VE SEEN,
I'VE READ OF THIS ...
OFTEN...
...THE BOY IS A
REINCARNATE...

...A
WHAT?...



...YOU WANT PROOF SIR?... AS A
DOCTOR... A SCIENTIST-- I
WOULD NEVER MAKE SUCH A
STATEMENT UNLESS I HAD PROOF...

"...HE DID TELL THE TRUTH
ABOUT HIS ORIGIN... OUT
OF THE DUST... AND IF THAT
NOT BE ENOUGH OF A
HORROR IN ITSELF-- WHAT
OTHER LUNATIC LIVES
DID THIS REINCARNATE
LIVE?-- AND WHAT OF
HIS DEATHS?..."



NEXT: IN HIS
MASTER'S
BLOOD...

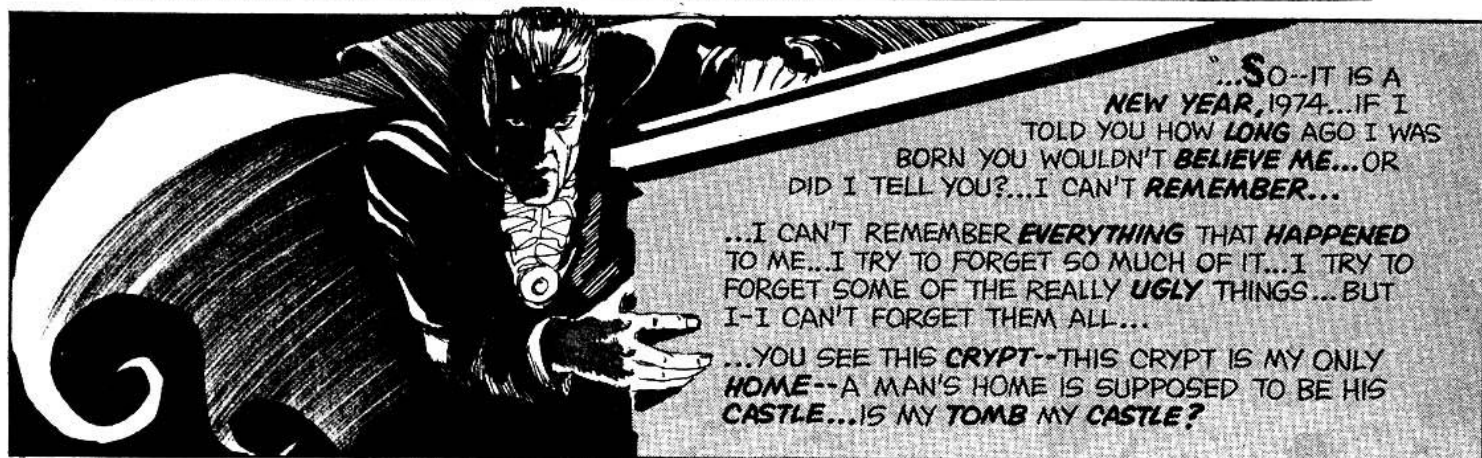
The Autobiography of a Vampire

CHAPTER 3

MY TOMB IS MY CASTLE

...IT IS DUSK...SOON THE MOON WILL RISE...SOON THE VAMPIRE WILL COME OUT TO SPEAK, TO TELL US TALES OF HORROR--TO TELL US THE TALES OF HIS LIFE...THIS NARRATIVE IS HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY...

WRITTEN BY ALAN HEWETSON
ILLUSTRATED BY RICARDO VILLAMONTE



...SO--IT IS A
NEW YEAR, 1974...IF I
TOLD YOU HOW LONG AGO I WAS
BORN YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME...OR
DID I TELL YOU?...I CAN'T REMEMBER...

...I CAN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED
TO ME...I TRY TO FORGET SO MUCH OF IT...I TRY TO
FORGET SOME OF THE REALLY UGLY THINGS... BUT
I-I CAN'T FORGET THEM ALL...

...YOU SEE THIS CRYPT--THIS CRYPT IS MY ONLY
HOME--A MAN'S HOME IS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS
CASTLE...IS MY TOMB MY CASTLE?

OH...I AM **MORBID**
AREN'T I? I SUPPOSE A
MAN SHOULD BE HAPPY
JUST TO BE **ALIVE**...WELL,
OF COURSE, NOT TO MAKE
A JOKE, BUT--BUT
I'M NOT EVEN **ALIVE**...



"...A **THREE HUNDRED YEAR**
OLD MAN IS NOT **ALIVE**...HE
SOMEWHAT **EXISTS**, BUT HE
CANNOT **LIVE**...AND LEAST OF
ALL...HE CANNOT "**LIVE**" IN
A **TOMB**...

...ONCE-UPON-A-TIME I HAD
VISIONS OF **LIVING** IN A **HOUSE**
...A **HOUSE** LIKE ANYONE'S **HOUSE**--
PERHAPS **YOUR HOUSE**...BUT,
THAT WAS A **LONG TIME** AGO...
ABOUT A **HUNDRED YEARS** AGO...
IN **GEORGIA** I **THINK**...SOME
CITY IN **GEORGIA**, I CAN'T
RECALL WHICH ONE...

"...IT WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE...IN THE DAWN LIGHT AS THE
SUN CAME UP UPON IT ALL THE WINDOWS WOULD SHINE AND A
HAZE AND AURA SURROUNDED THE WHOLE BUILDING...

"...THE HOUSE WAS AT THE VERY
EDGE OF THE GRAVEYARD...I USED
TO SEE THE OCCUPANTS AS I
ENTERED OR EXITED THE GRAVE-
YARD COME DUSK AND DAWN...
AN OLD MAN AND AN OLD WOMAN...



"...ONE
DAWN I
HEARD
A SHRIEK
FROM WITHIN
THAT HOUSE...



"...I GUESS
IT WAS THE
OLD MAN DIS-
COVERING HIS
WIFE HAD DIED IN THE NIGHT...



"...SHE WAS
BURIED THAT NIGHT...JUST
AS IT WAS BECOMING DARK..."



WELL, AMY...WE
HAD A GOOD LIFE
...A GOOD
LONG LIFE...
NOTHING TO
COMPLAIN
ABOUT I
GUESS.



...I GUESS
YOU DESERVE
A GOOD
REST!



YOU BROUGHT
FORTH SIX
CHILDREN TO
THIS WORLD...

THEY'RE ALL
GROW'D UP WITH
CHILDREN OF
THEIR OWN...



I'LL
BE KINDA
LONELY, AMY...
WITHOUT
YOU!



ALL THE CHILDREN ARE OFF,
ALL OVER THE PLACE...ALL I
GOT IS THE HOUSE I GUESS-
JUST
THE HOUSE...



NICE HOUSE
THAT, EH, AMY? YEARS
AN' YEARS THAT WAS
A GOOD HOUSE FOR US...
I'LL KEEP THE HOUSE IN
GOOD SHAPE...PUTTER
AROUND IN IT
TILL I DIE I
GUESS...



...THE OLD HOUSE'LL KEEP ME
COMPANY...NOW AN' THEN ONE
OF THE KIDS'LL COME
OVER...OR AN OLD FRIEND...
AND WE'LL DRINK YOUR
PEACE OF MIND...



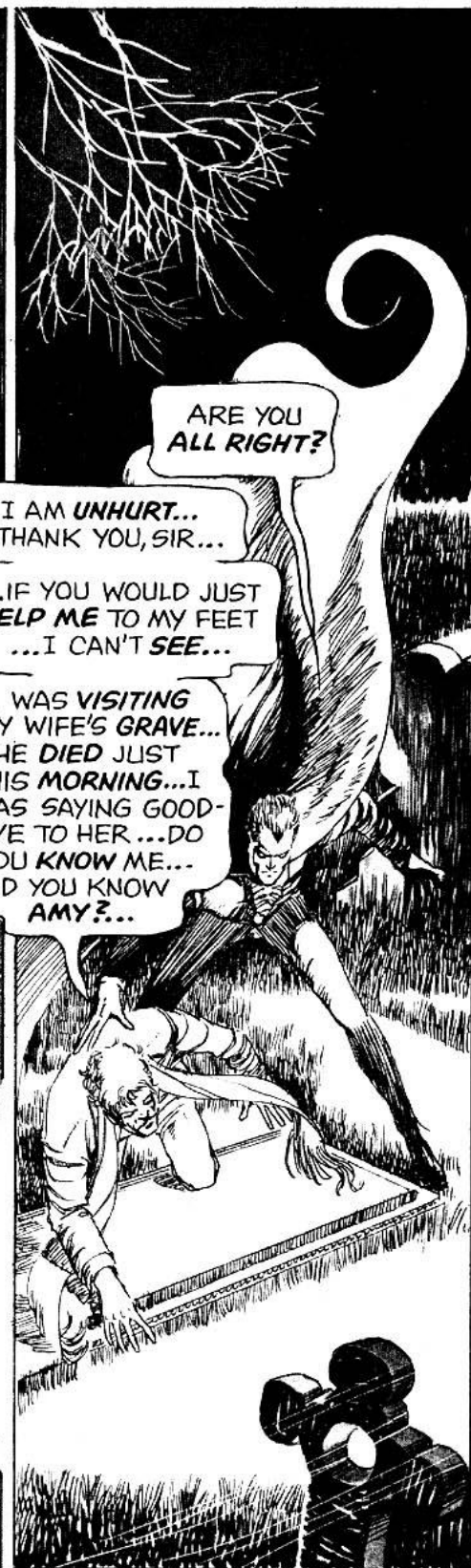
WELL, AMY...I'M GONNA
GO NOW...I'LL COME AN' VISIT
YOU HERE EVERY DAY...SEEN'
AS HOW THE HOUSE IS
SO NEARBY...



GOODBYE,
AMY!



"...HIS WORDS **STIRRED** ME...HE TALKED OF THINGS I NEVER HAD...NEVER TRULY **KNEW**...A HOUSE, A HOME, A FAMILY... A LOVED ONE...MANY LOVED ONES...MY MELANCHOLY WAS **BROKEN** AS HE **TRIPPED** AND **FELL** UPON THE **TOMBSTONE** OF HIS WIFE...




ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

I AM **UNHURT**...
THANK YOU, SIR...

...IF YOU WOULD JUST
HELP ME TO MY FEET
...I CAN'T **SEE**...

I WAS **VISITING**
MY WIFE'S **GRAVE**...
SHE **DIED** JUST
THIS **MORNING**...I
WAS SAYING **GOOD-
BYE** TO HER ...DO
YOU **KNOW** ME...
DID YOU **KNOW**
AMY?...

"...FOR THE **FIRST**
TIME I REALIZED...
THE OLD MAN WAS
BLIND!



LET ME HELP YOU...
I'LL WALK YOU TO YOUR
HOUSE...YOU LIVE ON THE
EDGE OF THE GRAVEYARD
I KNOW...I'VE SEEN
YOU...AND YOUR WIFE...

OH...YOU'VE SEEN US?
I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE
SOME WINE WITH ME...
DO YOU LIVE NEARBY?

...NO...I-AH-AM
NEW TO THIS CITY--
SAVANNAH...I HAVE
BEEN HERE ONLY A
SHORT TIME...

WELL, WHERE
ARE YOU
STAYING, SIR?



OH I...WAS STAYING
WITH FRIENDS...BUT
NOT ANY LONGER...

...WOULD YOU
LIKE TO STAY
WITH ME?

WHAT?

YOU HAVE A **GOOD VOICE**...
A **KIND VOICE**...I'M SURE
YOU'RE A **GOOD MAN**...

THERE ARE SO **MANY**
EMPTY ROOMS IN THE **HOUSE**
...YOU ARE **WELCOME** TO ONE
OF THEM...

BUT YOU DON'T
KNOW ME AND--I AM
A **PECULIAR MAN**...I HAVE
STRANGE HOURS...

WELL YOUR LIFE IS
YOUR **OWN**, SIR...I ONLY
INVITE YOU TO STAY
HERE--NOT TO BECOME
MY **COMPANION**...

IF YOU CAN SOMETIMES **DINE**
WITH ME--OR HAVE A **DRINK** WITH ME I
SHOULD BE **HAPPY**...AND IF YOU WOULD OCCASIONALLY HELP
ME DO SOMETHING I CANNOT DO FOR **LACK OF SIGHT**...I SHOULD BE **HAPPY**.
...BUT **OTHERWISE**...I HAVE **NO MOTIVE**...IF YOU WANT THE ROOM...IT'S **YOURS**...

"...I ACCEPTED THE OLD MAN'S OFFER...I LIVED IN A HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG, LONG TIME...MY HABITS DISINTERESTED ME...I WAS CONTENT THERE...



"...THE OLD MAN AND I BECAME FRIENDS...HE WAS INTERESTING COMPANY...HE TALKED ABOUT HIS LIFE...ABOUT GEORGIA...AND ABOUT HIS WIFE AND FAMILY...

I CAN'T COMPLAIN I GUESS...IT'S BEEN A GOOD LIFE...DID I TELL YOU HOW I MET AMY?

YES... YOU DID...

I DID TELL YOU?...OH, WELL...I GUESS ALL I HAVE LEFT IS MEMORIES...I REMEMBER THAT FIRST DAY SO MANY YEARS AGO...YOU ARE A YOUNG MAN, THIS WAS BEFORE YOUR TIME...IT WAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA...I WAS UP TO SEE HER FATHER ABOUT OUTFITTING A SHIP...

...HER FATHER WAS A SHIP-OWNER, AND I WAS AN IMPORTER OF FOREIGN GOODS; SILKS, THINGS LIKE THAT...WELL, I MET AMY ON THE DECK OF ONE OF HER FATHER'S SHIPS...WHAT A SOUTHERN BELLE SHE WAS...A REAL BEAUTY...

I WAS ONLY UP IN SOUTH CAROLINA A FEW DAYS...BUT IT WAS LONG ENOUGH...I WEDDED THAT GIRL AND BROUGHT HER BACK WITH ME.

...SIX CHILDREN WE HAD...SIX...AND SO MANY GRANDCHILDREN I CAN'T RECALL ALL THEIR NAMES...

...WERE YOU EVER MARRIED?

NO...

OH, SIR...YOU DON'T KNOW YOU'RE MISSING...THE LOVE OF A WOMAN IS THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD...WELL...YOU'RE STILL YOUNG YET...YOU HAVE TIME TO GET MARRIED YET...

...THE OLD MAN WAS BEGINNING TO GET UNDER MY SKIN...ALL THIS TALK...ALL HIS MEMORIES BEGAN TO ANGER ME...I WAS JEALOUS...BEFORE LONG I HATED HIM...

WHAT'S THAT I SMELL... SMOKE?

JUST A LITTLE FIRE...I'M BURNING SOMETHING...

YOU'LL BURN MY HOUSE DOWN!

MAYBE I WILL BURN YOUR HOUSE DOWN...YOU OLD FOOL...BURN YOUR MEMORIES WITH IT...

WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD MAN...YOU'RE EVIL...YOU ARE EVIL...

PUT IT OUT-- YOU'LL BURN MY HOUSE DOWN!

DON'T BE STUPID...

YOU CALL ME STUPID?

IN MY OWN HOUSE?

SHUT UP YOU OLD FOOL OR I WILL BURN YOUR HOUSE DOWN...YOUR PRECIOUS HOUSE OF MEMORIES!

NO... YOU CAN'T... GET OUT...GET OUT OF MY HOUSE OR I'LL

KILL YOU!



MY GOOD LORD!! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?

...MY HEART...WAS SO FILLED WITH LOATHING...WITH JEALOUS HATRED...I WANTED DESPERATELY TO HURT
THE OLD MAN...THE BEST WAY WAS TO BURN DOWN HIS PRECIOUS HOUSE...



...I AM A WICKED MAN...I KNOW...I CANNOT DESCRIBE THE ECSTASY I FELT AS I WATCHED THE FLAMES LAP
UP HIS MEMORIES...THE DELIGHT OF HIS AGONY AND TORTURE AT SEEING HIS HOUSE DESTROYED...



WHY--OH
GOD WHY?
...I'LL KILL YOU...I
SWEAR TO GOD I'LL
KILL YOU!

...HE SHOUTED TO THE NIGHT AIR...I WALKED AWAY WHEN HE BEGAN TO SHRIEK...I WALKED AWAY FROM
IT ALL, FOR I HAD DESTROYED HIM AS SURELY AS IF I HAD RIPPED OUT HIS THROAT..."

"...MY MIND FLASHED
BACK TO A FEW NIGHTS
BEFORE...WHEN I WAS EN-
TERING THE GRAVEYARD...



"...I WENT TO HER TO
SHUT HER UP...



"...SHE
STRUGGLED
...AND I
RIPPED INTO
HER THROAT...



"...I DRAINED HER DRY...HER
BLOOD WAS RICH AND AGED...
I LEFT HER ON THE PORCH
...SLUMPED IN A HEAP...

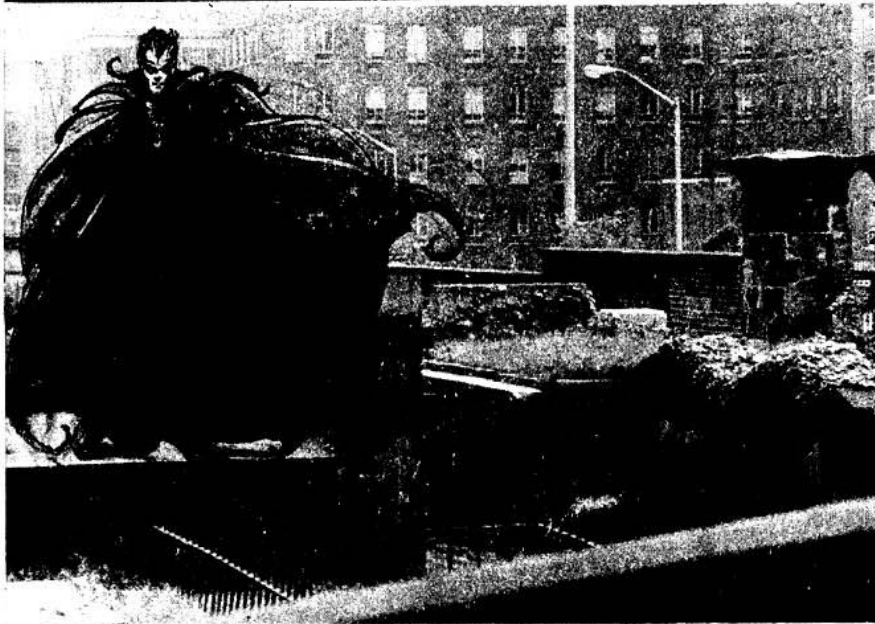
"...NO ONE WOULD KNOW HOW SHE
DIED...ONLY TWO SMALL MARKS ON
HER NECK BETRAYED MY ACT, AND TO
THE UNSUSPECTING, IT WOULD APPEAR
SHE'D DIED OF OLD AGE...



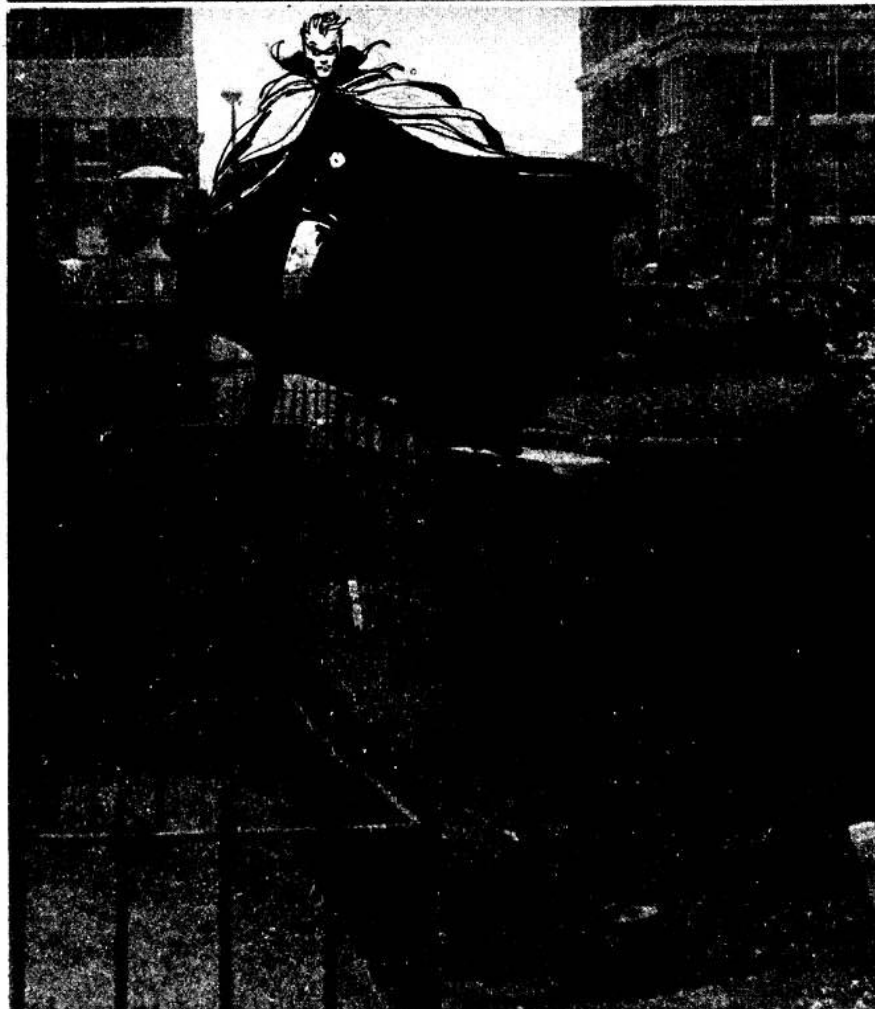
"...YES...I
KILLED HIS
PRECIOUS
AMY...AS I
MURDERED
HIM BY BURN-
ING HIS HOUSE
OF MEMORIES...

...I AM A VAMPIRE
...A VAMPIRE IS A
PARASITE...I SUCKED
THE LIFE FROM HER
YEINS AND THE LIFE
FROM HIS MIND...I
DESTROYED THEM,
FOR I AM A VAMPIRE!

"...I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE BEEN **HAPPY** IN THAT **HOUSE**...THE ONLY HOUSE I'VE KNOWN AS A **HOME**...BUT THE **VAMPIRE LUST** WAS STRONGER THAN THE **HUMAN LUST**...I WAS NOT **DESTINED** FOR A **HAPPY LIFE**...



"...IT IS **DEPRESSING**...AS THE **DAWN LIGHT** FORCES ME TO **END** THIS CHAPTER. I CAN **FEEL** THE **PRESENCE** OF THE **SAD CITY** AROUND ABOUT ME...IT IS AS **UGLY** AS THE **GRAVEYARD**...



"...I AM **MELANCHOLY**. THIS STORY I HAVE TOLD YOU IS ONE OF THE **SADDEST** OF MY **LIFE**...I SHOULD THINK OF **HAPPIER** TIMES, BUT THEY ARE **FEW** AND I HAVE TO **DIG DEEP** INTO MY **MIND** TO **RECALL** THEM..."

I WILL **RETIRE** NOW...LEST THE **LIGHT** BECOMES **TOO STRONG** AND **DESTROYS** ME...

...BUT THAT'S **DOUBTFUL**...THE **SMOG** IS **TOO THICK** FOR THE **FULL RAYS** OF THE **SUN** TO COME **THROUGH**...

...STILL...I'M **TIRED**...AND **DEPRESSED**...

...THE **NEXT** TALE I TELL
...I'LL TRY
TO MAKE
HAPPIER...



— NEXT —
THE VAMPIRE TAKES A BRIDE

...THESE...ARE THE **HUMAN GARGOYLES**...
AND HERE WE PRESENT CHAPTER SIX OF THEIR
CONTINUING TALE'...BEGINNING WITH A
PROLOGUE...

...WHEN LAST WE LEFT THESE NOW-HUMAN STONE GARGOYLES THEY
WERE IN **BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA** WHERE WE CONCLUDED AN AD-
VENTURE WITH A HEART-WARMING SCENE OF YOUNG **ANDY**
SARTYROS PARTICIPATING IN A **BROTHERHOOD DEMONSTRATION...**



THE HUMAN GARGOYLES



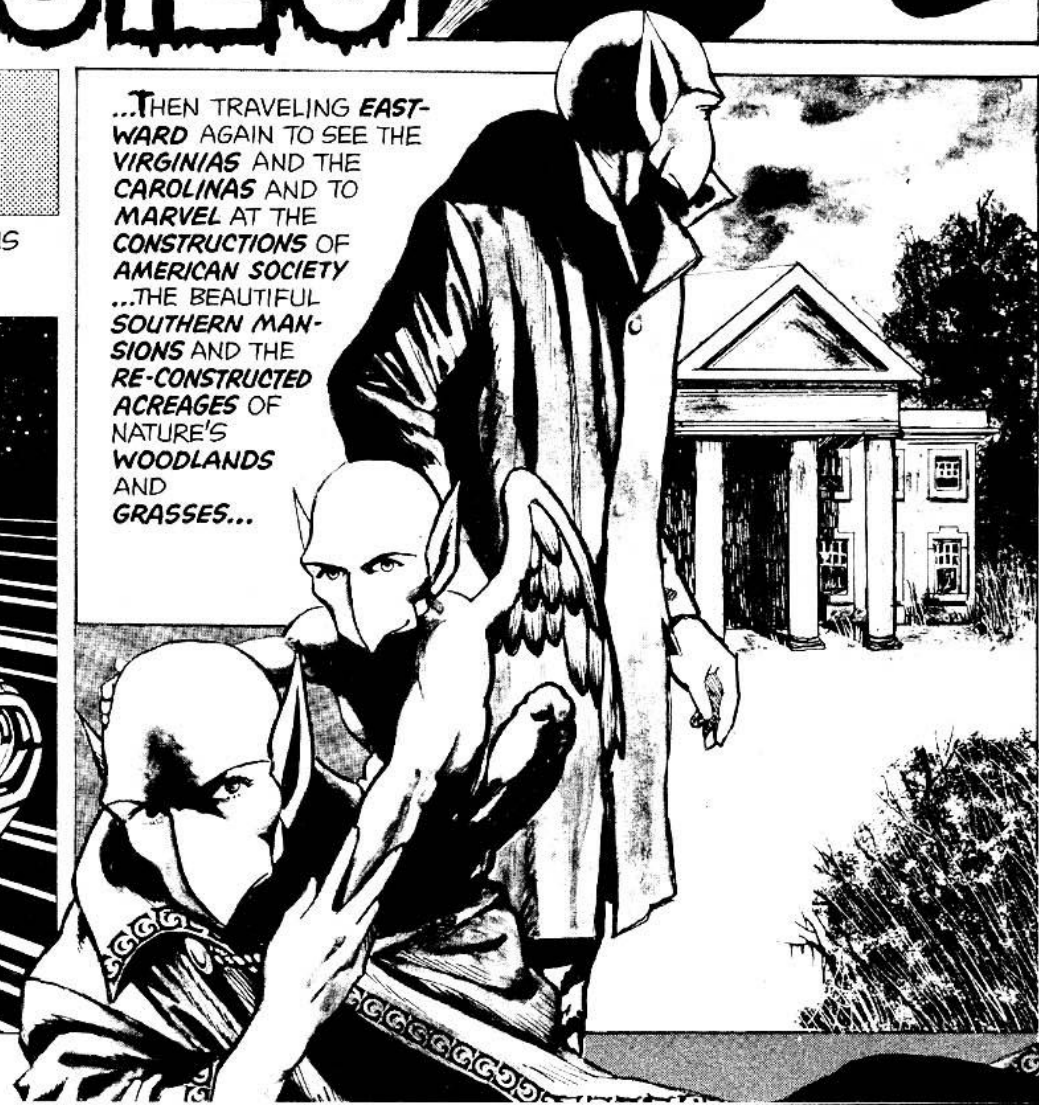
...SOON AFTER THAT DAY THE **HUMAN GARGOYLES**
TRAVELED NORTHWARD...FLYING OVER **TENNESSEE**
COTTONFIELDS...



...HITCH-HIKING THE FLAT PLAINS
OF OPEN-**MISSOURI...**



...THEN TRAVELING **EAST-
WARD** AGAIN TO SEE THE
VIRGINIAS AND THE
CAROLINAS AND TO
MARVEL AT THE
CONSTRUCTIONS OF
AMERICAN SOCIETY
...THE BEAUTIFUL
**SOUTHERN MAN-
SIONS** AND THE
RE-CONSTRUCTED
ACREAGES OF
NATURE'S
WOODLANDS
AND
GRASSES...



...THE **HUMAN GARGOYLES** SPENT SOME **THREE WEEKS** THUS EMPLOYED...IN THE ENJOYMENT OF **MAN** AND **MAN'S MACHINATIONS**, COMING AT LAST TO **PHILADELPHIA**, WHERE THE **LAWS OF AMERICA** **BEGAN** TWO CENTURIES AGO...



...AND WHEN THEY CAME TO SEE THE **LIBERTY BELL** THEY WERE STRUCK WITH **AWE** AND **DEEP THOUGHT** AS THE **AMERICANS** WHO STOOD BY THEIR SIDE...



...THIS IS WHERE THIS COUNTRY **BEGAN** EDWARD...

YES...

...WE HAVE, SINCE OUR BIRTH, OFTEN QUESTIONED THE LAWS OF MAN AND HIS SOCIETY...

...BUT NOW, IN THE PRESENCE OF THIS **SYMBOL**, I BELIEVE THEIR **GOOD INTENT**...

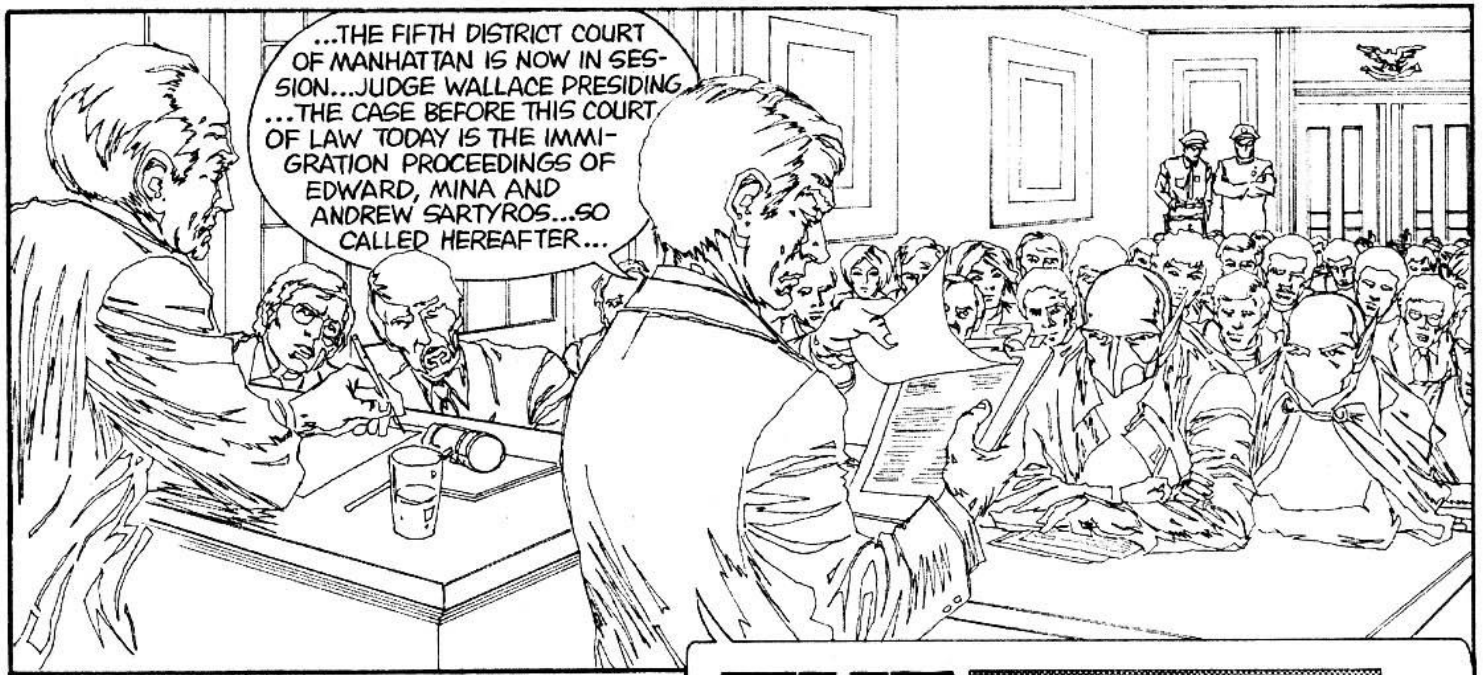
...I'M ANDY... WHO ARE YOU?

...?...

...THO' MAN MAY **TWIST** LAWS AND PORTRAY CERTAIN LAWS TO BE SOMETHING **OTHER** THEY REALLY ARE, I SENSE THE **EVILS** IN SOCIETY ARE THE INVENTIONS OF THE **FEW** AND NOT THE **MOST**...

...THEN... IT IS **TIME**?...

...YES, MINA... **NOW** IS THE **TIME**... IF WE WANT TO BE **PART** OF SOCIETY THEN IT IS TIME TO **APPLY** FOR **MEMBERSHIP**... LET'S HAVE OUR DAY IN **COURT**...



...THE COURT THE DAY OF THE **HUMAN GARGOYLE'S** TRIAL WAS **OVERFULL**...FOR THE **NEWS MEDIA** WERE COVERING THE EVENT WITH ALL THEIR **EXPLOITATIVE LUST**, AND THE **PUBLIC** WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO COURT CAPACITY... **JUDGE WALLACE** BANGED HIS GAVEL ON HIS DESK **REPEATEDLY** CALLING FOR CALM...



...AT THE DEFENDANT'S BENCH THE SARTYROS FAMILY SAT QUIETLY AND ATTENTIVELY; EVEN YOUNG ANDREW--WITH HIS HANDS CLASPED TIGHTLY AND LEANING FORWARD ON THE TABLE, THINKING OF HIS OWN IMPROBABLE THO' POTENTIALLY POSSIBLE FUTURE AS A DYNAMIC CRIMINAL LAWYER...



...IN THE **PRESS** ROWS THE REPORTERS SAT FIDGETING, ALERT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...

...AND IN THE **PUBLIC** ROWS THE PUBLIC ANTICIPATED THE MORE SENSATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CASE WHICH THEY COULD REPORT FIRST-HAND TO THEIR **FRIENDS** FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO COME...



THE HUMAN GARGOYLES VS. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

...NOW JUDGE WALLACE CALLS EDWARD SARTYROS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS...QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERN HIS PAST AND HIS FUTURE...

MR. SARTYROS... WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A CITIZEN OF THESE UNITED STATES?

...BECAUSE...I BELIEVE IN THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL... AND NO OTHER CONSTITUTION IN THIS WORLD PROMISES THE FREEDOM GUARANTEED IN YOURS...

...THAT IS VERY PROFOUND, MR. SARTYROS...BUT YOU HAVE FLAUNTED YOUR DISRESPECT FOR OUR LAWS IN THE PAST...BY ENTERING THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY...

...AND BY CONSTANT STREET BATTLES WITH INHUMAN MONSTERS OF THE MOST MACABRE ORIGIN...

...WHEN I ENTERED THIS COUNTRY...MY FAMILY AND I SAW NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ENTER IT ILLEGALLY...

...THE CREATURES I BATTLED WERE NOT OF MY OWN CREATION... I DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT THEM...

...I WAS PRESENTED WITH NO ALTERNATIVE...

...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE YOU LAST APPEARED BEFORE THIS COURT?

...I HAVE WORKED TO EARN A LIVING FOR MY FAMILY, IN A VARIETY OF JOBS...

...WITH MY FAMILY I HAVE TOURED THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN STATES TO STUDY AND APPRECIATE YOUR SOCIETY...

...I HAVE LIVED BY THE LAWS...AND WILL FOREVER LIVE BY THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY...



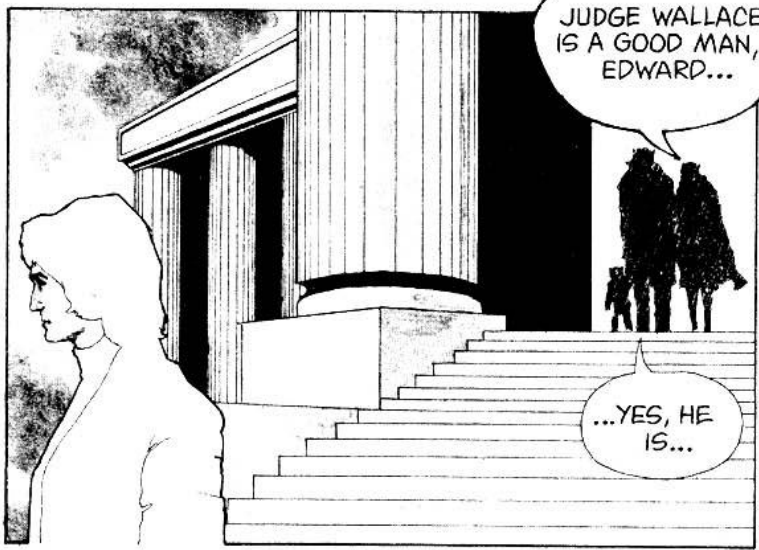
WELL, SIR...
WHAT HAPPENS
NOW?

WELL...AS I SAID IN COURT...YOU
ARE NOW A **LANDED IMMIGRANT**...
WHICH **MEANS** EDWARD, THAT IF YOU CAN
KEEP YOUR **NOSE CLEAN** FOR THE NEXT
TEN **YEARS** YOU'LL BE A **CITIZEN**...



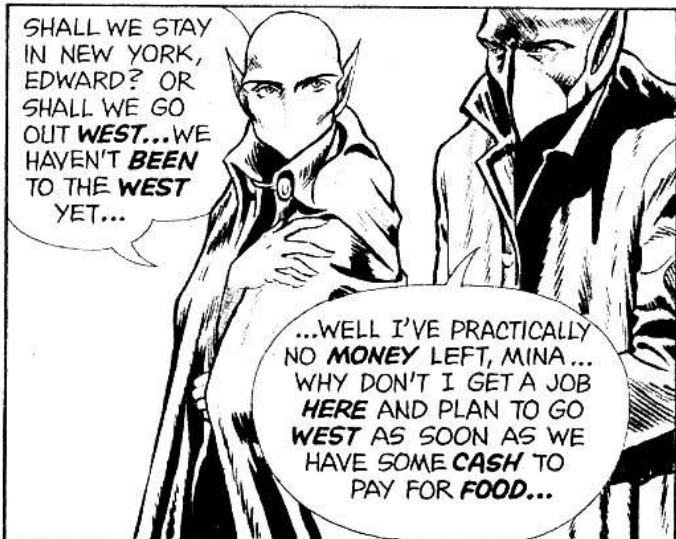
...HI, ANDY...

JUDGE...I
DON'T KNOW HOW
WE CAN POSSIBLY
THANK YOU...



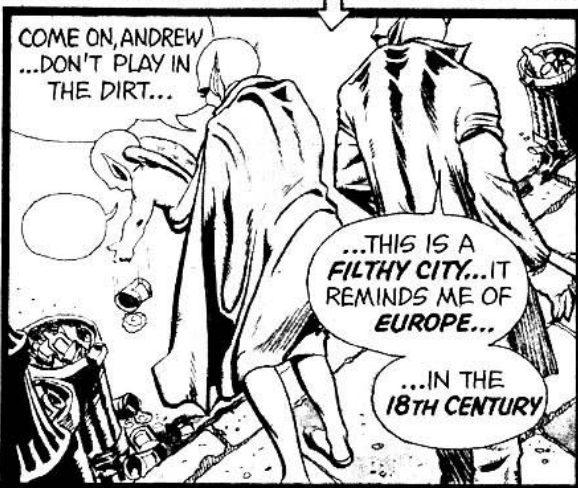
JUDGE WALLACE
IS A GOOD MAN,
EDWARD...

...YES, HE
IS...



SHALL WE STAY
IN NEW YORK,
EDWARD? OR
SHALL WE GO
OUT **WEST**...WE
HAVEN'T **BEEEN**
TO THE **WEST**
YET...

...WELL I'VE PRACTICALLY
NO **MONEY** LEFT, MINA...
WHY DON'T I GET A JOB
HERE AND PLAN TO GO
WEST AS SOON AS WE
HAVE SOME **CASH** TO
PAY FOR **FOOD**...



COME ON, ANDREW
...DON'T PLAY IN
THE DIRT...

...THIS IS A
FILTHY CITY...IT
REMINDS ME OF
EUROPE...

...IN THE
18TH CENTURY



...HORSEY...
GIDDYUP...

...WE CAN
MAKE IT
ALL RIGHT,
MINA...

...IF ONLY **SATAN**
WILL LEAVE US
ALONE...LET US LEAD
A **NORMAL LIFE**...WE
WANT **SO MUCH** TO
BE **NORMAL**...





HEY!!
HAVE YOU
GONE MAD
MISTER?





HOLD IT,
MISTER...

I SAID...
HOLD IT!



...BUT IT
WAS **REAL**...

YES...
IT WAS
REAL...

...DESTRUCTION
OF **PUBLIC PROPERTY**
IS **BAD ENOUGH** BUT
YOU GOTTA **BUST UP** A
BEAUTIFUL **STONE**
SCULPTURE LIKE THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
LION...



MISTER...I
HOPE THEY **THROW**
THE **BOOK** AT
YOU...



WHAT?...
WHAT IS
GOING ON?

THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
I WANT TO KNOW,
MISTER...AND
WHAT A **JUDGE**
AND **JURY** WILL
WANNA KNOW,
TOO...

...UNLESS
YOUR
LAWYER
ADVISES YOU
TO PLEAD
INSANITY!



C'MON, CREEP...
GET IN THE
SQUAD CAR...



JUDGE WALLACE
IS HERE TO
SEE YOU,
SARTYROS...



...DO YOU KNOW YOU
DEMOLISHED ONE OF
MANHATTAN'S MOST **PRIZED**
CULTURAL ARTIFACTS,
EDWARD?

...YES, SIR...
BUT I THOUGHT
IT WAS **ALIVE**...
I THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO **KILL**
SOMEONE...



YES, EDWARD...I
KNOW...MINA TOLD ME
SHE SAID **SHE** SAW IT
COME **ALIVE**, TOO... BUT
THE **CROWD** SAID YOU
SUDDENLY **ATTACKED**
THE **STONE FIGURE**
AND JUST
DEMOLISHED IT...



...YES...I
KNOW, EDWARD...I
BELIEVE YOU, YOU
KNOW...I **BELIEVE** YOU'RE
INNOCENT AND THAT
IT'S **SATAN** OR...SOME
OTHER EVIL POWER...BEHIND
IT ALL...BUT I DON'T THINK
I CAN HELP YOU **THIS TIME**.
YOU'VE COMMITTED A
SERIOUS CRIME
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO
PAY THE
PRICE...



...YOU'LL
HAVE TO STAY
HERE IN **JAIL**
EDWARD, TILL YOU'RE
BROUGHT BEFORE
A **JUDGE**...
HOPEFULLY
ME...

...BUT IF
IT **ISN'T** ME...
THEN MAY **GOD**
HAVE **MERCY** ON
YOUR **WRETCHED**
SOUL...



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